

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 Thursday the 22nd March, 1956.

P R E S E N T

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTION

(To which oral answer was given)

Application forms for loan under the Low-Income Group Housing Scheme

Pu LALMAWIA asked :

*13. Will the Minister-in-charge of Town and Country Planning Department be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of application forms for loan under the Low-Income Group Housing Scheme so far sold to the public in Mizo District ?
- (b) How many applications have so far been received by the Deputy Commissioner, Mizo District and the Government respectively for loan under the above scheme and the amount of loan sanctioned against such applications ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) replied :

13. (a)—The number of application forms for loans under Low-Income Group Housing Scheme sold up to 29th February 1956 to the public in Mizo District is 452.

(b)—The applications for loans under the scheme received by the Deputy Commissioner for Mizo District up to the end of February 1956—111. Applications received by the Director of Housing forwarded by the Deputy Commissioner

out of this 111 are—19. According to Rules no applications are to be received by Government as loans are sanctioned by the Housing Board with the Director of Housing as Chairman of the Board. The amount of loan under the scheme sanctioned up-to-date for Mizo District—nil. (No loan could be sanctioned as the District Council did not agree to the un-conditional mortgage of the building site and other lands. It was stated by the District Council that in case of default by the loanee the mortgaged land can be sold to a person subject to approval by the Executive Committee of the said District Council.)

Pu LALMAWIA : What action do Government propose to take under the circumstances to facilitate applicants to get the loans ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) : Government is trying its best to convince the District Councils to relax their Rules.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

Tea for home Consumption

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI asked :

24. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware that in spite of Assam being a major tea growing State in the Union of India the citizens of the State do not get good tea for home consumption ?
- (b) If so, whether Government propose to take necessary steps so that good teas may be available in the State ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that Government had certain proposals that local agents will be appointed towards supplying good teas ?
- (d) If so, whether Government propose to implement the same early ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) replied :

24. (a)—It is reported that good loose tea is not always available at moderate prices.

(b), (c) & (d)—In consultation with the Indian Tea Association and the Tea Board a scheme has been drawn up for appointment of dealers at different centres so that loose tea may be available at reasonable prices to consumers. The whole-salers have accordingly been appointed in different areas under certain terms and conditions on the recommendations of the Indian Tea Association and local officers. The Adviser, Indian Tea Association has already been requested to furnish the names of the gardens from which tea will be supplied to the selected dealers for different zones and take early steps for making necessary arrangements.

Revenue derived from Dibrugarh Subdivision

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUAH asked :

25. Will the Minister-in-charge of Finance be pleased to state the amounts derived under the following heads from the Subdivision of Dibrugarh for the year 1954-55.

- (a) Land revenue from Tea garden lands ?
- (b) Land revenue from lands under ordinary cultivation ?
- (c) Forest revenue ?
- (d) Excise revenue ?
- (e) Revenue from Crude oil ?
- (f) Revenue from Petrol ?
- (g) Revenue from other mineral oils ?
- (h) Revenue from Coal ?
- (i) Revenue from fishery ?
- (j) Revenue from Road Transport Cess on Tea, and
- (k) Revenue from Sales Tax ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

25. (a)—Rupees 8,85,920.

(b)—Rupees 13,24,472.

(c)—Rupees 23,82,263.

A small portion of the forests of Dibrugarh Subdivision has been transferred to Sadiya Division and figures of revenue for that portion are not readily available.

(d)—Rupees 62,09,259.

(e), (f) & (g)—Rupees 17,97,464. Receipt from all these sources are credited to one head and hence no separate figures can be given.

(h)—Rupees 1,65,650.

(i)—Rupees 2,17,950.

(j)—There is no such cess on tea as "Road Transport Cess". But if the hon. Member means tax on goods carried by road and inland water-ways, then the tax collected from Tea on this account is Rs.16,72,261.

(k)—Rupees 21,27,801.

Flood Damage Grants to Schools

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS asked :

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

(a) How many High Schools and Middle English Schools received flood damage grant during the year 1955 ?

(b) What is the amount of money so allotted to each High School and Middle English School ?

(c) Whether those Schools were actually damaged by floods ?

(d) What is the total amount of money allotted for flood damaged grant to the Schools ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

26. (a)—106 High Schools, 134 Middle English Schools.

(b)—A copy of the distribution list is placed on the Library table.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Rupees 24,40,100.

Recommendations of the Assam Minimum Wages Board

Shri RAMPRASAD CHAUBEY asked :

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

(a) What were the recommendations of the Assam Minimum Wages Board for Local Bodies' employees ?

(b) Whether Government accepted these recommendations ?

(c) If not, what is the stand taken by Government *vis-a-vis* those recommendations ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) replied :

27. (a)—The recommendations were :—

(i) **Unskilled Manual Labour—**

Sweeper—

Male	Female	Duty hours not exceeding
Rs.25 per mensem ...	Rs.22 per mensem	4 hours per day.
Rs.35 „ „	Rs.30 „ „	6 „ „ „
Rs.45 „ „	...	8 „ „ „

Cowherd—Rs.35 per mensem.

Other mazdoor—Peon, Chowkidars (except part time and School Chowkidar)—Rs.45 per mensem.

Other Chowkidars—Rs.25 per mensem.

Daily rated workers—Re.1-12-0 per day.

(ii) **Semi-skilled employees—**

Handyman—Rs.47 per mensem.

Others—Rs.55 per mensem in Local Bodies and Municipalities.
Rs.50 per mensem in Town Committees.

(iii) Skilled Labour—

Driver and Mechanic—Rs.65 per mensem in Local Bodies and Municipalities.
Rs.60 per mensem in Town Committees.

(iv) Clerical staff—

Clerks and Typists—

Matriculate	Non-Matriculate
Rs.75 per mensem	... Rs.70 per mensem in Local Bodies and Municipalities
Rs.70 per mensem	... Rs.65 per mensem in Town Committees.

These rates are all inclusive, *i. e.*, Dearness Allowance, Rice Concession and other concessions are all merged together.

(b) & (c)—These are under consideration of Government.

Exportation of Paddy/Rice from Cachar

Maulavi MEHRAB ALI LASKAR asked :

28. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state the quantity of Paddy/Rice exported from Cachar District during the last Khariff Season ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) replied :

28.—Rice/Paddy, now being decontrolled commodities the Supply Department has no information about the quantity exported from Cachar during the last Khariff Season. However, the Railway Authorities have been requested to furnish the information.

Flood Damage Grant allotted to High and Middle English Schools

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY asked :

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

(a) What is the maximum and minimum amount of money granted to a High and a Middle English School as a measure of relief on account of flood damage during 1955-56 ?

- (b) What are the names of the High and Middle English Schools which have been given the maximum amount of flood damage grants ?
- (c) Whether any flood damage grants were given to Rampur and Chaygaon Government Aided High Schools ?
- (d) If so, what is the amount of money granted to each of these two High Schools ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

29. (a)—The maximum amount granted to a High School is Rs. 8,000 barring the case of Tihu High School which received Rs. 11,000.

The minimum amount granted to a High School is Rs. 2,000.

The maximum amount granted to a Middle English School is Rs. 8,000.

The minimum amount granted to a Middle English School is Rs. 2,000.

(b)—A statement showing the names of the High and Middle English Schools which have received the maximum grant is placed on the Library table.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

Issue of permits for sale of trees in Sidli Duar Range in Goalpara East Division

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli asked :

30. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—

(a) If it is a fact that issuing of permits for trees to individuals was discontinued in Sidli Duar Range in Goalpara East Division ?

(b) If permits from this range was issued to public bodies free of royalty for public purpose ?

(c) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, whether the Secretary of Bhadrangaon Primary School Committee, who applied for free permits was granted any free permits ?

(d) If it is a fact that the practice of issuing permits on royalty to individuals is re-introduced ?

(e) If so, why and on whose recommendation ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

30. (a)—Sale of trees in Goalpara District is ordinarily not allowed on permit but on coupe system.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—No. Ordinarily trees are to be sold on coupe system.

(e)—Does not arise.

Realisation of tax from toll gates in Goalpara East Division

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli asked :

31. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—

(a) If toll gates, one at Dakhungaon and one at Rani-khata were recently erected in Goalpara East Division ;

(b) If so, the rates realised as toll from different kinds of vehicles such as buffalo carts, bullock carts and motor trucks, etc ;

(c) If it is a fact that there was no mention of such toll gates in the sale notices of forest coupes in these areas ;

(d) If it is a fact that the Government valuation of coupes is done irrespective of toll gates ;

(e) If it is a fact that the motor trucks and carts plying in forest areas and on forest roads are required to pay a tax in addition to toll fees and other local fees and taxes ; and

(f) If any complaint was received by Government in this matter ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

31.(a)—Yes.

(b)—The rate is Rupees five per round trip.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The Government valuation of coupes is done on the basis of the scheduled rates of royalty for timber prevailing at the time of preparation of such notices and the prices fetched for similar coupes in previous years.

(e)—A Forest Department road use fee of Rs.50 per commercial motor vehicle only is realised annually for plying in forest roads in general.

(f)—A complaint has been received by the Conservator of Forests in respect of the gate at Runikhata and Government has ordered to shift the gate to a few miles northward so that coupeholders may not be affected.

Cases of Mis-appropriation of Government Revenue from Philobari Forest in Lakhimpur District

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked :

32. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that recently Shri M. C. Jacob, Senior Conservator of Forests, inspected the Philobari Forest in Lakhimpur District and detected several cases of mis-appropriation of Government Revenue ?

(b) If so, whether the Senior Conservator of Forests fixed responsibility on officer or officers responsible for the mis-appropriation detected by him ?

(c) What was the total amount of mis-appropriation of Government Revenue, if any, from the said Forest ?

(d) Whether any action has been taken against the officers and contractors involved in the mis-appropriation and if so, what action has been taken ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

32.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Responsibility will be fixed on completion of the enquiry now in progress.

(c)—Total loss of revenue, if any, cannot be determined until the enquiry is completed.

(d)—No step can possibly be taken till the enquiry is finished.

Area of Land under Plantation

Maulavi MEHRAB ALI LASKAR asked :

33. Will the Forest Minister be pleased to state—

(a) The number of 'Had' workers in the forest reserve ?

(b) The area of land under plantation and lying fallow in the reserve forest ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

33. (a)—No reply can be given as it is not understood what is meant by 'Had' worker.

(b)—The area of plantation on 31st March 1955 was 79,209 acres. No land within any reserve can be said to be fallow simply because there has been no regular plantation scheme in respect thereof; naturally grown scattered trees or wild growth of reeds, canes and grasses have their own value for economic exploitation apart from their utility for the reserve itself and the animal population within and outside the reserves.

Tapping of "Khejur" trees

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED asked :

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

(a) Whether Government is aware that the people of Barpeta Subdivision tap their Khejur trees for preparing 'Gur' and 'Lali' ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that due to liquor prohibition the people who used to tap their 'Khejur' trees for preparing 'Gur' and 'Lali' cannot do the same now and consequently they are facing hardship and economic distress ?

(c) Whether Government are aware that the excise staff is giving unnecessary troubles to the people who tap their 'Khejur' trees for preparing 'Gur' and 'Lali' within the liquor prohibited area ?

(d) Whether Government propose to amend the Liquor Prohibition Act allowing the people, residing within the liquor prohibited area to tap their 'Khejur' trees without any license for preparing 'Gur' and 'Lali' ?

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

34. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Persons desirous of tapping tari from the date trees for manufacture of 'Gur' and 'Lali' in the prohibited areas can do so after obtaining a license for the purpose under the existing rules from the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Officer.

(c)—No.

(d)—A Bill has been placed in the current session of the Assembly to exempt unfermented tari from the operation of the Assam Liquor Prohibition Act, 1952.

Construction of a permanent Bridge over Kulsi River

Shri RADHA CHARAN CHOUDHURY asked :

35. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state---

(a) Whether Government propose to construct a permanent bridge over Kulsi river at Hatigar (under Kulsi Range) in the interest of the Forest Department as well as the public in general ?

- (b) If so, whether Government propose to take early steps to construct the bridge after due survey ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

35. (a)—There is no such proposal but Government will examine the matter.
 (b)—Does not arise.

Rented house for office purpose

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

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

(a) If the Khadi and Village Industries Board, Assam, took a portion of a house on rent for office purpose from 20th December 1955 at a monthly rent of Rs.250 (Rupees two hundred and fifty only) ?

(b) If it is usual to take houses for rent for office purposes through the Deputy Commissioner ?

(c) If the Board took the house through the Deputy Commissioner ?

(d) If the Government fixed any rate of rent for hiring houses for Government offices ?

(e) If so, whether the principle and the rate is applied in this case ?

(f) The approximate accommodation available in square feet in the said house ?

(g) The rate of rent per square foot.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

36. (a)—Yes, the house has been hired from 1st January, 1956, and not from 20th December, 1955.

(b)—No.

(c)—No.

(d)—The rent is generally fixed through amicable settlement between the owner and lessee. No rate of rent is fixed by Government as it depends on various facts, namely, floor space, situation and other conveniences.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—Three big and 2 small rooms and one bath room, total 1,350 sq. ft.

(g)—Does not arise.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : With regard to (a), who is the owner of the house ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : I have got no information, I want notice to that question, Sir.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : It is stated here that Government hired this house from 1st January. From whom they hired it ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : I can give the information to the hon. Member later, Sir, as I cannot say off-hand.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Now, with regard to (d), may we know whether the Municipal assessment is taken into consideration at the time of fixing the rent ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : That is a new question, Sir, I cannot say off-hand.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : It is stated here that no rent is fixed by Government as it depends on various facts, namely, floor space, situation and other conveniences—may we know whether the Municipal assessment is one of the factors taken into consideration at the time of fixing the rent ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : In fixing the rent, certain factors are taken into consideration of which the prevailing rate of rent charged for holding of similar nature in the locality.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Whether the Rent Control Act is one of the factors for consideration ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : Yes, Sir, that is taken into consideration.

The Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 1956

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a message, dated Shillong, the 17th March, 1956 from the Governor of Assam which I read out to you :

“Under the provision of Article 207 of the Constitution of India, I, Jairamdas Doulatram, Governor of Assam, recommend the introduction in the Legislative Assembly of Assam, the Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 1956 and also the consideration of the said Bill by the said Assembly.”

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 1956.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

(The Bill was introduced.)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 1956 be taken into consideration.

(After a pause.)

The question is that the Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 1956 be taken into consideration.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): As there is no Member taking part in the general discussion of this Bill clause by clause, I, therefore, beg to move that the Bill be passed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 1956, be passed.

(After a pause.)

The question is that the Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 1956, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)

Election of Members to the Public Accounts Committee

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do elect eight Members to the Public Accounts Committee under Rule 127 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules for the year 1956-57.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that, this Assembly do elect eight Members to the Public Accounts Committee under Rule 127 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules for the year 1956-57.

(The Motion was put and adopted.)

I hereby fix Saturday, the 24th March, 1956 as the date and Room No.2 of the Assembly Building as the place where election to the Public Accounts Committee will take place.

The voting will be between the hours of 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Election of Members to the Estimate Committee

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do elect nine Members to the Committee on Estimates under Rule 128-B of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules for the year 1956-57.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that this Assembly do elect nine Members to the Committee on Estimates under Rule 128-B of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules for the year 1956-57.

(The Motion was put and adopted)

I hereby fix Tuesday, the 27th March, 1956 as the date and Room No.2 of the Assembly Chamber as the place for holding the election to the Committee on Estimates. The voting will take place between the hours of 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Demands for Grants

Grant No.11

“25.—General Administration”

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,31,06,300 (Rupees one crore, thirty one lakhs, six thousand and three hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head “25.—General Administration”.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved is that a sum of Rs. 1,31,06,300 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration."

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 1,31,06,300 under Grant No.11, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 52 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,31,06,300 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

My object is to raise a general discussion.

At the outset, I should like to thank the Finance Minister for incorporating this time in the Budget the salaries and allowances of the Chief Minister and other Ministers in toto under the voted demand. Previously this used to be a charged item. So, I am taking the advantage of congratulating the Government for doing this because this has afforded us an opportunity of discussing also the affairs of the Ministry.

Now, Sir, I don't grudge the amount that has been sought under this demand though it is much higher than it was last year or in the years prior to that. Yet in view of the fact that the work of the Government in various Departments and spheres has increased, the amount, I think, cannot be considered as too heavy. Therefore, I am not going to criticise the demand on that score. I also don't propose to repeat some of my criticisms which I had made in the last year and years before, because I think and hope that the Government will take into consideration those criticisms in due course. I only want to make certain new observations with a view to help the Government with constructive criticism.

It is admitted by everybody that in the changed social circumstance and also in the changed political situation in the country when the professed aim of the Government is a Welfare State based on socialistic pattern, the administrative machinery also should be moulded so as to fit in with these ideas. The machinery which we inherited was a machinery fit for a different type of Government that was essentially a Police State and therefore at the initial stage there were certain difficulties in making the change over and it was only natural that in that transitional period there would be certain defects and certain shortcomings. But today we cannot say that we are still in that initial period. Several years have passed and time is now ripe when our administrative

machinery should be properly moulded so as to fit in with the changed and changing conditions in the country. We, however, do not see much in that direction. We have seen that while our aim is in one direction, the machinery is in the other direction, and I have seen in the reported speeches of the members of the Congress party itself in the last few years that they have also made criticisms on that score. For example, nobody will perhaps accuse my Friend, Shri B. K. Borah, as being a destructive critic of the Government, but he himself in his discussion year before last and also last year had said that the administrative machinery in our country is not efficient and is not up to the mark.

He had also quoted from the Gorwala Report which had shown some of the causes of inefficiency and gap. The reasons are that there is no close link between the Heads of Departments and the people at large. The Capital being situated in a place which is a little far off from the din of the people, the cries and protests and prayers of the people do not easily reach their ears. They have to depend on files mostly and redtape is still prevailing as it used to do. If some of the Departments could be shifted to the plains districts, say for example to Gauhati as was suggested by my Friend, Shri Borah, and also by my Friend, Shri Basumatari, then many things could be improved. I think Government will consider this question very carefully and if the Government finds that even at a greater expenditure there will be closer understanding and closer contact with the people by shifting some of the Departments then Government should consider that move and should try to implement it at the earliest possible time.

Then, I also see in spite of the fact that the Planning Commission and also the ruling party have been saying that the difference in the earnings of the different sections of the people should be progressively lessened in spite of this profession, we still find that in our administration, say for example under this General Administration, 14.9 per cent of the top officers draw a salary of 38.8 per cent and 85.1 per cent of the petty officers draw a salary of only 61.2 per cent. That is to say, the inequality and the difference between the top and the lower rank of officers still continues. I appreciate that there is a Pay Committee which is considering the question and I hope that the Pay Committee will give recommendations to improve upon the situation, but I also should like to make this direct appeal to the Government that Government should also consider and examine the matter.

I appreciate that there is a Pay Committee which is considering the question and I hope the Pay Committee will recommend to improve upon the situation. I should also like to make this direct appeal to the Government that they will consider this matter. One suggestion I would like to offer is that if the dearness allowance is merged with the basic pay, then the difference will be lessened, I think, approximately by 20 per cent. Initially that will not bring a very big strain on the Government revenue also though in the long run the Government will pay more from their revenue to the Government servants, and the Government servants also as a result of this merger will be better assumed for their future. At present those who draw a small amount of basic salary will get a very petty sum of pension, and when those officers will draw their pension they will not get the benefit of the dearness allowance in their pension. A Government servant after retirement will have to maintain himself and his wife together with other minor children if there be any in his old age. This has become all the more urgent now in view of the fact that the joint family system in our State is disintegrating very fast. Old parents are not, now-a-days, looked after as they used to be in the past. Therefore, Sir, in view of the fact that the Government servants who draw a small amount of basic salary are adversely affected in their old age, there being no provision of old age pension in our country, they should be given a fair deal by merging the dearness allowance with the basic pay in our State. I would request the Government that such a policy should be adopted immediately in the coming year. I would like to suggest that this merger of dearness allowance will go a long way to alleviate the difficulties of low-paid Government servants.

In this connection, Sir, I would also like to refer to the recommendations of the Pay Committee which was constituted in the year 1948. That Pay Committee had made some valuable recommendations. With regard to the house rent, that Pay Committee made recommendations like this which I would like to read out—"It is, however, recognised that in some localities the employees are paying an undue proportion of their salary on house rent and the Committee recommend that in such areas measures should be taken to stimulate the provision of suitable accommodation. The Government themselves may examine whether they can play a part in constructing at Government cost residential accommodation for persons of their employ".

If Government could have made housing arrangement for the employees, specially low-paid employees, that would have been very helpful to the employees. Sir, we find here at Shillong that Government had adopted a scheme to allot some Government land to employees to build their houses, but at that time the Government did not take into consideration that after the retirement of a Government servant or resignation by him from Government service, the Government cannot take back that land which was allotted to him or the money which was advanced to him. As a matter of fact, Sir, there had happened many such things. One gentleman, for example, was serving here in Shillong as an Under Secretary in the Secretariat. He was given a plot of Government land in a certain area known as Motinagar. He built his house on the plot of land taking house-building advance from the Government. Now he has resigned that post and he is now practising at Gauhati and has joined the High Court Bar. The land on which he has built the house has not been taken back by the Government and the money that he has taken as a loan from the Government as house-building advance has not yet been repaid. So, Sir, instead of allotting Government land in this way and instead of advancing house building advance for constructing the houses, if Government would have constructed some houses on Government lands and rented out to the Government employees, that would have given the employees more help. I hope and believe, in future the Government will consider this suggestion whether it would be better than the previous arrangement, specially in view of the fact that there is no guarantee that the sons and daughters of the Government servants will also be absorbed in the service of the Government of Assam.

Then, Sir, I would like to say a few words about the district administration. But then, before that, I would like to refer to certain item at page 53 of the Budget. We find there in item C.—Elections—that an amount has been earmarked for this purpose and a lot of money spent under this head has been wasted. Last year I remember to have tabled a Cut Motion on this item on the issue that the electoral rolls prepared for the Gauhati town were not up-to-date and that a preliminary revised roll was necessary and the Chief Minister was pleased to reply that the rolls would be revised and a fresh preliminary rolls would be prepared. In that connection he also sought our co-operation—co-operation of all parties and all individuals. As a matter of fact, Sir, when the rolls were going to be revised, we went there to the Election Officer offering our co-operation. But, Sir, far from welcoming our co-operation, it was taken with

some amount of discontent and suspicion. No public co-operation was sought, nor was it welcomed when voluntarily given to the Election Officer. The result has been that the rolls had been very much reduced in number. In place of 20,000 in the rolls of 1951, the rolls came down to 13,000. While there has been increased in the population, the electoral rolls of the Gauhati town actually went down. This was due to the indifference of the officers on the spot. Some enumerators were employed but there was no proper supervision over them. As a matter of fact, they made their list as they liked without visiting from house to house. Some areas were altogether left out. For example, the surrounding areas of the Sarania Hill were left out; a greater portion of the University colony was left out; the Kharghuli area was left out; the Gandhi Basti area was left out and some "gallies" at Tokobari and Rehabari were left out. Then some names of prominent persons including the names of the Chief Justice of the High Court, District and Sessions Judge and many members of the Municipal Board were left out. In this way the preparation of the rolls were very badly made. Now, Sir, for such preparation, the Government is going to pay the officers concerned. Has it not been a sheer wastage of public money? Could the matter not have been improved if there would have been better supervision? Not only that. Even with risk of being misunderstood in certain quarters, I want to say that some of these enumerators and some of the staff in the District Election Office at Gauhati were obsessed with a strong feeling of Chauvinism, as at that time the Goalpara disturbances were going on and block after block of Bengalee residents in Gauhati were completely left out from enumeration. Representations had to be made to the Election Commission and to the Chief Electoral Officer against this sort of national discrimination. Let me hope and believe that the policy of the Government is not to countenance national discrimination. Yet this sort of discrimination had taken place at Gauhati and it has marred the good feelings of a section of the citizens. That does immense harm to the State. Unless and until the administrative machinery is geared up to the ideal of the Government and to the tradition of the national movement, in spite of our best wishes and good efforts at the top, a lot of harm is done at the bottom and people have a feeling of oppression. Therefore, I would like the Government to see that these sorts of things do not happen in future.

Coming to the question of the Directorate of Statistics, here we find that the provision has remained stagnant. I think the House will agree with me that collection of the statistical data is a great necessity for our developmental purposes. Unless and

until we get the correct statistics, we do not know the actual position of the different sections of our people and their activities. Therefore without going much into the details, I can only suggest that the Government should give greater attention to the side of statistical survey.

Sir, next I come to the item—Relief and Rehabilitation Department. Here even after these 8 years of the unfortunate partition of the country we, find this problem has remained unsolved and we are yet not out of the woods on this score. The other day my Friend, Shri Mohendra Nath Hazarika, made certain pertinent criticisms and suggestions on this account. He has correctly said, and these things were repeated on the floor of the House in the previous years also, that for properly solving the problem, the first essential requisite is a proper understanding of the problem and for that proper understanding, what do we expect from the Secretariat of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department? We expect a correct picture of the problem and for that we want the actual number of refugee and their different avocations of life, how many of them have been rehabilitated and to what extent, how many are still to be rehabilitated and how best can they be rehabilitated? Sir, if a large number of people remain here without doing any work, simply going from office to office asking for loans, they will be a burden on our State because, whether or not they get any work to do, they have to eat either by begging or by borrowing. Either some of them might be starving to death or getting something to eat but my point is that unless and until they are employed for some productive purposes, they will mean a perpetual drain on our national income. So, it is in the interest of the nation—it is in the interest of the State itself—that everybody should be given work, opportunity to earn their living and contribute something for the society as a whole. The solution of the refugee problem does not lie in giving them some relief alone. It is a question of actually national construction and we expect our Secretariat of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department to be very alert and active in the matter of solution of this problem. We expect it to devise method of speedy and proper solution. But unfortunately these are lacking at present.

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Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, it is the established procedure in this House that whenever any statement is made in the House basing on newspaper reports, those

*Expunged under the orders of the Speaker.

reports should be properly verified before making the statement. But in this particular case, it appears that the hon. Member did not properly enquire into the matter. Under the circumstances, I humbly submit to the Chair that Mr. Bhattacharyya's observation in this respect be ruled out as unjustified and not in accordance with the practice and procedure followed in this august House.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, the Chief Minister has completely misunderstood my point. I said that I shall verify the newspaper report and then come before the House. But so far as these allegations are concerned, they do not relate to newspaper reports alone.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The idea underlying the suggestion of the leader is that it is not in keeping with the dignity and prestige of this august House to make any statement bringing certain allegations against any of the Hon'ble Ministers or any Member of the House without prior verification of facts. So, I request Mr. Bhattacharyya to withdraw his allegation. So, I rule that the portion of his speech which relates to these allegations, should be expunged.

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Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, in my opinion it does not behove Mr. Bhattacharyya to make such a sweeping generalisation as it must be known to the hon. Member that in order to get agricultural loans, refugees have got to offer some security of lands somewhere either here or there. It is upto those who apply for loans which particular plot of land they want to offer as security. Therefore I believe Mr. Bhattacharyya has been furnished with wrong information.

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Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: My whole idea is that the Secretariat of the Relief and Rehabilitation or the person or persons responsible for issuing these loans should very carefully verify whether the loans said to have been issued to the refugees in various places including Karimganj have been properly issued and whether any discrimination has been made.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): The hon. Member should verify his charge of discrimination.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : I have made my verifications and that is why I am making these allegations and now it is upto Government to say whether these allegations are correct or not.

It is for the Government to see that the loans are given to really deserving refugees. The task of the Secretariat is to see that at the time of giving loans there is no discrimination or favouritism.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Sir, the general practice is that an agriculturist cannot get loan unless he has some agricultural land to offer as security. It is immaterial where an agriculturist refugee possesses land, either here or there, but what does matter is that he must furnish some security in agricultural land. If they are to get some piece of land, they are to pay something to the middlemen. There are some people who also do it in every district. That I have seen with my own eyes at Gauhati also.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should have brought these facts to the notice of the Government.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : There are bogus associations and there are individuals who, after getting their loans, fly away like kites. And then what else the refugees can do ? If the refugees are to get loans, they are to pay a certain percentage to those persons and this percentage sometimes goes up to the extent of Rs.300 per thousand. That is to say if a refugee is to get a loan of Rs.1,000, he is to pay an amount of Rs.300 or so. That is to say, the refugee after all gets an amount of Rs.700 only.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Was the attention of the Government ever drawn to these things at any time ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Yes, Sir, several times to the effect that those people should not be allowed to hover round.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : When he was not satisfied, he should have brought these facts to the notice of the Government with specific instances.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: On contacting the Deputy Commissioner, I was satisfied that at least two of those would be blacklisted. But I do not know as yet that even now this redtapping is still there. In Karimganj there are some lands which have been given to the cultivators on the plea that they would invest certain amount of money; but those lands are not actually cultivable up till now. Yet, Sir, the refugees have taken the loans though getting only to the extent of Rs.700 or 800 per sanctioned thousand. There is no proper caution that loans are given to proper persons. Many persons have already fled away after receiving the loans and Government themselves admit that many recipients of loans have disappeared. So, I hope there will be some check so that they might not escape with loans of Rs.700 or 800. Sir, in this way loans have been taken.

My point is what these district officers are doing actually in different districts? This matter should be carefully enquired into by the State Secretariat in-charge of Relief and Rehabilitation. Sir, from my personal experience, I know that these things are going on not only in one Subdivision but in other parts of the State as well. This practice should be eliminated so that bogus refugees may not get loans and I shall come with facts, Sir, that even some Biharis got loans. This toutism is very common in the case of refugee loans and this toutism should be thought of in time otherwise the very purpose of giving loans to the refugees is defeated. Sir, I would like to point out that even at Shillong, one Bihari has been given a refugee loan. If the Chief Minister wants the name of the loanee, I shall give him tomorrow. As I said, he is a Bihari and not a refugee from East Bengal. So, these things are happening. It is the duty of the Secretariat to see that proper and real refugees get adequate amount of loans and to see that bogus refugees may not run away with the money which is provided for this laudable purpose.

Sir, I now come to the question of district administration. Here also, I am glad to refer to the speeches of my Friend Shri Bora. He himself has said that there is certain lack of initiative in the district administrative machinery. I do not want to repeat certain general formulae. Let me suggest to Government as to what might be the excuses of this lack of initiative. We find that often

the general complaint is that the different officers in the districts cannot take initiative because of too much interference from public bodies, too much interference from non-official individuals and so on. This might be partially correct but I think there is another factor, that these officers were trained in a way in which they think they were the masters of the situation and that they were not the servants of the people. This feeling was inculcated in the past days. They have, even now been carrying on with this old tradition. Sometimes, useful suggestion or useful criticism is considered as unnecessary interference. It will be, therefore, the duty of the Government to see that while there is no unnecessary interference by persons or bodies in the administrative affairs in the different district levels, the district officers also should be responsive to the wishes and the feelings of the people and they should give a respectful hearing to the criticism that come from different individuals or different bodies. I do not say that it is taking place everywhere but I am speaking in general. There are some very good district officers who are really trying to change themselves according to the changed circumstances but there are again places where they are not so. Government should see that such officers also change themselves. I find also that some officers may be quite capable and appreciable in certain area but it may not be so everywhere. It may be due to bad temperament or due to bad approach. I can cite an example of an *ex-Additional Deputy Commissioner* of Kamrup. I came in contact with him very often and I found him a very promising young officer but when he was transferred to Garo Hills, people complained and began to grumble against him. Somehow or other he could not adjust himself to the situation at Garo Hills. So far as I know many responsible persons from Garo Hills including some Congress Members of Legislative Assembly represented to the Government that, that particular officer should be removed from that place.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Who is the officer referred to by him ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I mean Mr. Bhatnagar. While he was at Gauhati he was a good officer, but at Garo Hills he could not adjust himself. My point is that, let him be transferred to a place where

he can better adjust himself, but that is in no way, some sort of denunciation of the officer. For some personal reasons, somebody may not be quite fit in some area and yet he may be quite good in some other area. These things should be taken into consideration. Whenever any public complaint comes, Government should take up the complaint with some amount of sympathy and understanding. Without rhyme and reasons, responsible people do not come with complaints. Sir, another Deputy Commissioner in Kamrup was Shri Carvalho. He was doing very good there. Now he has been transferred. We are very glad to hear that he has escaped from an unfortunate mishap. That officer has been pursuing a certain policy.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya, it is better to discuss things in a general way without mentioning about particular officers.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: All right, Sir, let me rather say in a general way that specially in the hill districts when officers are posted, particular care should be taken to see that they can win the heart of the people. For example, if a particular officer takes too strong measures, that may be estranging the feelings of the people of those areas. Now, in the Naga Hills, this Government is following a policy which, to my mind, is not correct [Shri Bishnuram Medhi (Chief Minister)—We have had enough discussions about Naga Hills]. The district administration in the Naga Hills at present is not run on correct lines. The problem in the Naga Hills is, to my mind, essentially a political and sentimental one and, therefore, the approach of the district administration should also be political in order to win the people over by persuasion and argument. Retributive attitude will do more harm than good. For example, Sir, two boys, Madong and Tiya, aged 14 and 13 years respectively, students of Class VIII of the Impur Mission High English School and sons of Imkongmeren, Vice-President of the Naga National Council, have been arrested and kept as hostages.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): I fail to understand, Sir, how these things come in course of a general discussion on this demand. How can he refer to the cases of people who have been arrested on specific charges? All these cases are *sub judice* and it will amount to a contempt of Court.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: But these boys have not been arrested on specific charges. Their father might have committed some offence. But why should they be confined as hostages ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): No, none has been arrested except on specific charges.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Even these two small boys ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Yes, you do not know the facts ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: When the Chief Minister says that these two boys have been arrested on specific charges, I do not want to pursue the matter. At any rate, my point is that in the hill districts in particular, the district administrators should be instructed to be very careful in their dealings with the people. The situation is very delicate and even one small wrong step may bring results which may be ruinous to the best interests of the country. These are my specific suggestions to the Government with regard to the general direction to be given to the district officers.

Now, another thing, Sir, last year on the 19th March, when this demand was discussed and I brought a Cut Motion under the head "Civil Secretariat" with regard to necessity of the Assam Code, the Chief Minister said "The Assam Code in three volumes may be expected within six months or earlier". I should like to know from Government whether the three volumes of the Assam Code did come out within six months or earlier or if they are ready for sale even now. I raised this point because we find that in the Civil Secretariat, things move rather too slowly as a result of which development works in the districts are not going as fast as they ought to go. Therefore Government should give proper care and attention to this matter and see that the Secretariat here moves with greater speed.

Another thing I want to say is this: in dealing with the public the Secretaries should be human and well behaved. I know of a particular instance—perhaps this was brought to the notice of the Rehabilitation

Minister also—where a refugee had approached the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner drove him out of the room using abusive language, attacking even his nation.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : (Minister) : When did that happen ? This has not come to my notice.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : I shall give the date. At any rate the man told me that he had brought this to the notice of the Chief Secretary and also of the Rehabilitation Minister. If this is true and if officers in the Secretariat behave so rudely, the whole Government comes in for criticism. If a man feeling aggrieved at the behaviour of a particular officer goes and says to others that this is the type of behaviour I got, others also may be influenced. Sir, Government observes courtesy weeks in order, I think, to make citizens feel that they are equal partners in the building up of a welfare State. So, this courtesy should not be a ceremonial affair of one week in the year only; it should be a continuous affair throughout the year. I would, therefore, suggest to the Government that they should urge upon the officers to behave courteously with the public.

These are the few observations I wanted to make today in connection with the Cut Motion, which I have moved, and I hope the House will accept my Motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Cut Motion moved is :

That the total provision of Rs. 1,31,06,300 under Grant No. 11, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 52 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,31,06,300 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Cut Motion moved by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, on general administration.

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Sir, several colonies sprang up automatically, some with the help of Government, in Cachar District for the rehabilitation of the refugees. These colonies are Nagendra Nagar, Bishnu Nagar, Kudali, Basantapur, Gopikanagar, Fakua-Colony, Krishna Nagar, Bhairab Nagar, Sasthipur, Kalyanpur, Sri Rampur, Anandapur, Samridhipur, Santoshpur, Sripur, Bagan-tali, Margalpur and Chutakuna. These are some of the names of these colonies. According to Government estimate more than 2,000 families have been rehabilitated in these areas, where I have seen personally that the refugees had been robbed of all they had and the Zemindars are realising premiums to the extent of 300 to 400 rupees per Hal. In most of the cases, money was received full but no land was given. This is a sorrowful picture which one cannot dream of. At first, the rehabilitation started in those areas with the help of Ram Krishna Mission under the guidance of Sri Achinta Maharaj, who is in-charge of Karinganj Ram Krishna Mission, took the lead in 1949-50. The advantage of this area is that the big estate of Dewan Manik Chand Estate is under the Court of Wards and there is vast waste lands suitable for cultivation, if reclaimed. Taking advantage of it, we also suggested at that time to the officers of the Department that when Government exercise control over this estate, it would be easy to give lands to the refugees in this estate which is under the Court of Wards. A system has thus grown up by which a Salami at the rate of Rs. 60 per Hal of land was fixed and on that basis the lands which were settled with the refugees for which loan was given to them, the Rehabilitation Department deducted the amount of Salami from each refugee which was deposited to the account of the estate.

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Sir, I want to inform the Members here that all these three Estates are linked up with a head tout, Motilal Datta Chaudhury. He should foresee things in his vulture's eye and took settlement of big areas of land from these three Estates in lots of 200, 300, and 400 bighas in his own name and in the names of his relations and friends with the help of some Nayabs there with nominal Salami. In Lala Gourhari Estate also he took land in the same way paying very little Salami through the Inspector of the Estate who is his father-in-law.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): How these things are relevant under the General Administration Budget?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Yes, it comes under Rehabilitation in General Administration. There is documentary evidence to prove how money was squeezed from the poor refugees without giving them lands or receipts, etc. As I told you, the Inspector of this Lala Gourhari Estate is the father-in-law of Motilal Chaudhury. In the third Estate, the manager, Shri Arobinda Chaudhury, is also a relation of Motilal Chaudhury.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should not speak here about private individuals.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, I have already finished the introductory speech and now I am coming to the actual state of affairs. I know it personally and I have got information from innumerable refugees that this Motilal Chaudhury, taking advantage of his relations, in the helm of affairs of these Estates, took settlement of vast plots of lands with nominal Salami and compelled the refugees to pay Salami at Rs. 200 to 400 per Hal and even in many cases land was not given.

Sir, I have received a big number of complaints from refugees not only of that area but also from Hailakandi as well and such complaints were represented to the Chief Minister. I am glad to say that the Chief Minister has ordered a judicial enquiry in one of these cases. I know how these corrupt persons have sucked the blood of the poor refugees. Evidences are being taken.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Chief Minister has ordered for an enquiry, this is *sub-judice*. So you should not mention about it here.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): How Shri Motilal Chaudhury or Shri Arobinda Chaudhury's name can be brought in here? They are not connected with Government or they are not Government officials.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I will come to the Government officers just now. (Laughter). They are doing all these things with the connivance of some Government officers of Relief and Rehabilitation Department. In many

case we know that loans were disbursed in these Katcharis of the Estate and this abnormal Salami was deducted by the officer for the interest of those intermediations on faked documents of lands and the refugees actually did not get the land as per document and the money paid. This unholy alliance between touts and officers doomed the refugees. Let me give one instance and you will be surprised to find how these things are going on. I personally visited that area on 24th February, 1956. I have taken personal evidence from many people, *e.g.*, one gentleman, Shri Mohan Kisore Das. This is my own handwriting, Sir, that I have taken notes at the time of enquiry.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): If the hon. Member has got new instances, I think it is better that he brings those to the notice of the Government for enquiring into the matter.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, all these matters have been referred to Government many times and, as I have said and as I told you before that I had no intention of discussing all these things here but since the matter has been cropped up, let me explain the position.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, Mr. Das, if you have specific charges against any officer, it is better that you bring those to the notice of the Government.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I am bringing it to the notice of the Government here in this House. My specific charges are innumerable, Sir, where lakhs and lakhs of rupees are involved. If the Government say that they will make an impartial judicial enquiry into these cases, then I won't say anything here and now. I shall place everything in the hands of the Government outside the House. But I want a definite assurance now.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): He has not stated how the Government officers come in here, so how can Government know whether these charges are genuine or not?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I was not given a chance, Sir, to explain the position but I was interrupted every time by all stalwarts in the Cabinet. I want to cite specific instances. Now, this Mohon Kisore Das came from Mymensingh immediately after Partition. He bought a plot of land of about 10

Hals from one Muhammad Ali for three thousand rupees, but soon after the Manager of the Khadan hi Estate dispossessed this poor man of his land with the help of Government officers of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department of that area and some touts of this Estate. How is it that the Government have opened a relief dispensary in that very land which was neither acquired nor purchased by Government? As I have said, Sir, the Relief and Rehabilitation Officers of the Government have also helped in dispossessing this poor refugee of his land which he has purchased with his own money. You will be surprised to hear, Sir, that in innumerable cases these Relief and Rehabilitation Officers have deducted even the Salami at the rate of Rs. 200 to 400 in this Zamindari Estate itself.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Das, if you have specific instances, the Chief Minister has told us that he would take steps to enquire into those charges against Government officers.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: These are specific instances, Sir, but I was not given time to state them clearly. I don't like all such interruptions. It seems that Ministers got nervous.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, the charges are vague. He said that the Manager of a private estate dispossessed a certain man of his land, but that Manager is not a Government servant. How can we take action when he is not a Government servant?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I said that some of these Government officers in the Relief and Rehabilitation Department helped this Manager in dispossessing this poor refugee of his land. Besides that, Government have constructed a refugee dispensary in that land which, as I have already stated, has not been acquired nor purchased by Government by paying money to this poor man.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): But he has not mentioned the name or names of officers who are alleged to have helped this Manager.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Do you want names? All right. One of them is K. P. Choudhury, who was a Special Officer at the time and there are others as well. I do not say that all the officers are like that, but some of them.

These officers and Congress leaders named before are responsible for squandering lakhs and lakhs of money intended for the refugees without any check from the Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are generalising.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: No, Sir, this is not generalisation, but I am giving facts. Please have patience and I shall place individual cases.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): He has taken more than half an hour but without coming to his point.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I have taken only 10 minutes and most of my time has been taken by the Ministers who disturbed me at every stage. As soon as I refer to a certain specific charge, they jump upon me without giving me chance to complete what I have to say. Why they have got nervous? I said that a relief dispensary was constructed in that land. Bricks are burnt there and a refugee market is being constructed in that land belonging to this poor refugee—how is that? How can Government construct all these buildings in that land? How can they trespass into it without acquiring or purchasing the land? Is it not surprising?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): If that land actually belongs to that refugee, why then he did not complain to the Government if he has been dispossessed of the land? This refugee has not complained anything to us.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: How can he, when he is a very poor man?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): You may better ask him the question. I think there is no case in this, Sir, because when that refugee was dispossessed of his land and he did not make any complaint to us, it means that he himself connives in that dispossession of his land. So I say there is no case in that.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS “শাক দিয়ে মাছ চাকতে চেষ্টা করবেন না মশায়” Now, Sir, as I have already stated, some of these Government officers, not all, but some of them together with the Estate officers, are taking money which is being given to the refugees. In some cases 50 per cent while in

other cases as much as 80 per cent of this money goes to the pockets of these touts. And for all these things, I demand an impartial judicial enquiry. Let me give other instances. Jatra Mohan Das, Gopesh Ch. Das, Sukhang Bhattacharya, Jogendra Ch. Das, Sarada Ch. Das and many others gave more than 300 for a *Hal* of land but most of them have been cheated. These are few among the innumerable cases. We have heard from both the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister as well as from the Chief Minister that the Relief and Rehabilitation Department is not a political Department and that all people should be treated on equal footing. There should be no political affiliation or political *bias* in this matter, but I can give innumerable instances as to how a particular political party only wins in the Municipal elections and only to gain people over in the Local Board elections, have granted lands recklessly to persons who are mostly not even refugees, nor they fulfill the condition of the loan and such persons are getting relief and rehabilitation loans amounting to Rs.3,000 or 5,000 from your officers. Is it not wastage and nepotism? As for example, Sir, I can give you certain instances.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, loans were issued to the Municipal Board of Karimganj also of which my hon. Friend, Shri Das, is the Chairman.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I am not talking of Municipal Board but individual cases. Sir, let us take the case of Shri Arabinda Choudhury, Manager of Khadanchi Estate.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, may I know from the hon. Member when loan was given to Shri Arabinda Choudhury?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, it is surprising that the attitude of the Ministers should not be like this; it is evident that they are determined not to hear anything. Their ears are closed. I do not know when Shri Arabinda was given the loan. You can enquire it from your office. But my point is, Sir, that Shri Arabinda was given some loan. His parents are still living in Pakistan. He is not a practising lawyer, nor a business man, but he has got an urban loan of Rs.3,000. Then, Sir, with regard to Shri Motilal Dutta Choudhury, he was given an urban loan of Rs.5,000 or 3,000. But I can say as Chairman of the Municipal Board that he has no

holdings; he is not residing in the town also; he has got no business even in the town or suburbs and still he has got a loan of Rs. 5,000. On what consideration Shri Motilal Dutta Choudhury was given the loan, I do not know, Sir. Let Minister reply.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, Shri Arabinda Choudhury is a refugee.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, he is not a refugee. His parents are still living in Pakistan, and also he is not a practising lawyer. As such he is not eligible for a loan according to rules.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, may I know from my hon. Friend whether according to the rules framed by the Government of India, Shri Arabinda Choudhury is a refugee?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: No, Sir, he cannot be a refugee under the rules. Before giving loan, did Government enquire if Shri Arabinda Choudhury was practising—may I know it from the Minister?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Whether he is practising or not, that is not in the rules.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: But, Sir, he has no license. It is clear in the rules that loan may be given to a lawyer who is practising or who has a license. In this case he has nothing like this.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, may I know from the hon. Friend when Shri Arabinda Choudhury was given the loan?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: That, Sir, I can't say exactly; it may be at the time of Mr. Mookerjee or earlier.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Then after so many years why do you bring in this question?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: In any case, how a responsible officer can pass this loan? Sir, I have explained my position fully.

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* * * Expunged under the orders of the Speaker.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, this refugee administration in Cachar was in the hands of the Government of India. May I know from the hon. Member whether this refugee loan was given to Shri Arabinda Choudhury during the time of Management by the Govt. of India?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, it may be during the time of the Government of India. The Government of India took the administration of refugee in Cachar as an emergent responsibility. I do not know whether these things happened during the time when the Government of India took the administration of the Cachar refugee.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, he should say specifically in whose time these refugee loans were given.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, I do not know in whose time these refugee loans were given. Why am I forced to it? You may get it from the Office.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Das you can't go on talking like that.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, he should specifically say whether the loan to Shri Arabinda Choudhury was given during the time of the Government of India.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, may I know from the Minister-in-charge of Relief and Rehabilitation whether thousands and lakhs of rupees as loans to refugees were given during these years? Sir, everybody is responsible it may be Government of India and it may be the State Government. But, Sir, my point is why urban loans should be given to a person like Shri Motilal Dutta Choudhury who is not even residing in the municipal area and who has got even no business on the municipal area and Arabinda Choudhury who has no practising license.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When was the loan given?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: When the loan was given, I can't say. Sir, you may ask the Government. It is for them to enquire. I do not like this interference even from the Chair.

Shri BIMALAKANTA BORAH: Sir, on a point of order. The question is, if the loan was granted by the Central Government then in that case the point is out of order, and, therefore, we cannot criticise the action of the Government of India till we know it clearly from the hon. Member whether the loan was given during the time of the Government of India, and hence no discussion could be made on this point. Sir, clearly the point is out of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I hope, when we cannot specifically say whether the loan was given by this Government or by the Government of India, and whether the Government of India is responsible for it or the State Government is responsible for it, we cannot take up this matter.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Without hearing me, are you giving ruling? Strange? Sir, my point is that the Government of India has been spending money from the year 1947 and up till now for the refugees—whether they are in Shillong, Gauhati or in Cachar. I hold that we have every right to discuss the matter and as a matter of fact, we have discussed about rehabilitation of Cachar District, when it was under Government of India, many times in this House. “সাত কাণ্ডরামায়ণ পরে গীতা কার বাবা” Is it not strange now to raise such unnecessary points only to disturb me and waste my time?

Now, Sir, I am coming to another point.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I hope, Mr. Das, you are concluding.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Sir, I was so much interrupted from the other side that I could not speak even what I wanted to say.

Sir, what I want to say now is about contract and appointment by the local officers of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department. Persons who have been discharged and dismissed for charges on defalcation as detected by Audit in the Local Board and Municipal Board in Silchar, were appointed in the Relief and Rehabilitation Department only for Political reasons. Sir, how can you expect that these persons will take the big responsibility of Relief and Rehabilitation and granting of loans to refugees? The people will not have any confidence in these persons.

I can give my Friend, Shri Borah instances of specific cases. I shall give him names of recent cases, if he promises that he will take action. Sir, no railway contractor no *bonafide* Public Works Department, Municipal or Local Board contractor gets any contract work under the Relief and Rehabilitation Department (interruptions). These *bonafide* and good contractors do not get any chance of work under the Relief Department. You will see that only some cheats are doing works there and drawing false bills. (Questions from Treasury Bench: Can you give the names?). I shall give the names. (Interruptions). There are some big cheats

(Interruptions). The Ministers should not interrupt me in this way. Have patience. I shall show you that there are many rotten things in Nagendra Nagar [in Sonbeel area] which Horatio could ever dream of. I would like to give a picture of that Nagendra Nagar Colony. In that colony, I have seen personally that a Nullah has been dug out inside that colony and out of the earth dug out of the Nullah on both sides some sorts of plinth has been made which would not be more than 15 feet wide on an average. On both sides of that Nullah on these two strips of land, small huts have been set up and the poor refugees are living there huddled together even with cattle. I have noticed even cattle and refugees are living together in these small and impoverished huts. Sir, it is said to be the ideal colony of the Ratabari Thana.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): These colonies were visited by the Union Relief and Rehabilitation Ministers, Sri Jain and Sri Khanna. Did they raise any objection?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I do not know whether they raised any objection or not. I do not know their reactions. I am giving my own reaction. What Messrs Jain and Khanna felt, this is not my look-out. The Minister will find out the truth from what I have stated here, of course, if he has any respect for my integrity. These huts are just like labour lines of Tea Estates in the 19th century.

In that colony, I could come across with two houses having C. I. Sheet roofs. On my enquiry, I could learn that the owner of one of these two houses is of one Haralal Das, who is the principal tout of the Khadanchi Estate of this area and the other is his brother. About 450 families live there but none except the above two touts have got any house worth the name, not to speak of any house with C. I Sheet roof. But Government say it is the ideal colony.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Das, you should cut short. Your time is up. There are more over two or three Cut Motions and the Minister will also have to reply.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, My Friend, Mr. Tazuddin, will not move his Cut Motion. I may be given some time. I will take another 5 minutes. Sir, it is surprising and also I cannot understand why the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker always behave with me in this way. Whenever I want to speak, they do not like it. I do not like that sort of

interference from the Chair. Then there is another tout, Santimoy Das, living in that area. Sir, just after the recent visit of the Union Relief and Rehabilitation Minister, Sri Khanna, in that area, one refugee gentleman, Shri Rakhal Das, who gave a correct picture of that colony to the Union Minister, was severely taken to task by Sri Arabindo Chaudhury, the Manager of the Khadanchi Bari Estate, for stating the truth to the Union Minister. He and all those refugees were threatened by Sri Arabinda Chaudhury with dire consequences that they would not get any fresh land, either temporarily or permanently, nor will they get any bamboo or thatch for purpose of constructing their houses. No land will be given for grazing and no land will also be given for burning of dead bodies. Can Government encourage this 18th century barbarism of this Zaminder less? I request the Government to look into these matters and save the refugees from the wrath of these vultures. (The bell rang.)

Sir, there is a destitute home at Karimganj. It is one of the biggest in the State where a large number of unattached women are living. The condition of the building is very bad. It may collapse at any moment. We heard that the Government has constructed a Destitute Home-cum-Work Centre at Nowgong, where it was proposed that the inmates of the Karimganj Destitute House would be also transferred. But the inmates of the Karimganj Destitute Home are not in favour of going to a distant place. So I request the Government to construct a permanent Pucca Destitute Home at Karimganj. Sir, unless the living condition of these girls living in the unattached home is improved and they are given some training in earning their living, there is scope for immense activities among them and much cases of corruption have been brought to our notice on many occasions.

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA : What is that corruption?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Immoral corruption, Sir. My request to Government is that Government should construct a Destitute Home-cum-Work Centre immediately in this area, and about the other things which I have said, I again repeat that the Government should make an enquiry—a judicial enquiry, if possible—or the Minister-in-charge with the help of some of his colleagues may hold the enquiry. We are ready to help them in that matter and I hope the truth of what I have stated will come to light if that is done. If it is not done, then our obvious inference would be that Government does not like real rehabilitation of the refugees.

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Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to oppose this Cut Motion on one ground which is that when I entered into this Hall I found a sheet of news paper with a head line, as a 'Sakuni' *i. e.*, a Vulture, sitting on my table. It was ominous. So, I found all the arguments that have been advanced by my Friend who has moved this Cut Motion has practically been vitiated by the malevolent trend of these "vulturous" arguments. Therefore the first thing that struck my mind is the question as to how this 'vulture' could have come to our table so as to spoil the proceedings of the House by its evil influence under which we now proceed to discuss the general administration of the country. I am afraid, it cannot but be unfortunate as you have just seen. My Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, is finding fault with the whole administration of the Refugee Rehabilitation Department, and I was in a sense, pleased to know from him that the administration of this department in his own district is not such as one would expect it to be. But possibly my Friend has now forgotten that when this department was under the charge of the Government of Assam, a great hue and cry was raised by the refugees there including my Friend himself, perhaps, that the refugees were not properly treated by the Government of Assam so much so, that the whole hoard of the Calcutta press who take a peculiar delight in vilifying all that belong to the Government of Assam and the Assamese people, created such a row that ultimately this department had to be made over to the Central Government. With so much initial prejudice, when my friends discovered to their utter disillusionment that the Central Government could not confer on them the much wished for fruit of their imaginary paradise, these refugees themselves wanted again to be administered by the Government of Assam. The reason for this can be easily understood. I do not like to flatter myself by eulogising the achievements of this State Government with which they have been able, within this so short a period, to set to order the alleged rotten state of affairs that was prevailing in the department after it had once gone out of its responsibility. But in this connection I am happy to refer my Friend to the statement made by a very responsible member of the Central Government when he said that the administration of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department in Assam is going on as satisfactorily as it could be desired. After this I do not think any useful purpose will be served by discussing the points raised by my Friend.

(At this stage, the Speaker took the Chair and the Deputy Speaker vacated the same.)

My Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, has brought in the name of a lady in this connection. That, in my opinion is not decent.

We strongly dissociate with him in this regard and sincerely feel that it is not proper to bring in the name of a lady in course of the debate. My Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, has stated that some people of the department has been doing dis-service to the people by resorting to certain low and questionable tactics. That, Sir, may be true in some cases. In this connection, I personally feel one thing : if the so-called friends of the refugees would have not treated them in the way they are doing, would not have misled and misguided them through wrong channels, the problem could have been solved more easily. When these miserable people came in their hundreds and thousands to our State, mush-room organisations began to grow with the sole purpose of fanning the flames of communal frenzy and to feed the people's mind with communal virus with the idea that the refugee problem should be solved in a way to suit their own purpose forgetting all the time that there are some other people in the State, the indigenous people—the children of the soil—who has brought the State to the position as it is obtaining to-day. Their contribution to the well being of the State and their sentiments, cares and anxieties cannot be allowed to be totally sacrificed at the alter of the whims and caprices of the so-called leaders of the refugees. The line of action adopted by these leaders, the movement that has been created by them have driven a wedge between this class of people and the other inhabitants of the State. As a result of this, these refugees, the real refugees who had come to this State leaving not only their hearth and home but in many cases their very near and dear ones, were distressed between two devils on the one side their self-appointed leaders and on the other, their unbearable woes and worries going on unabated. If the refugees can now save themselves from these so-called friends, I am sure the efforts of our Government to remove their grievances will meet with success. If any body is really serious about his profession that he wants to do real and lasting good to the refugees, then I feel that he should work to create an atmosphere where every refugee will say that "I want to be a friend of Assam and I want to live and work and die for Assam". Well, if such an ideology can be created in the minds of the refugees, then and then only I feel real service would have been done to these people. I can cite hundreds of instances to prove that this is also the intention of the refugees. But our so called friends of the refugees like my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, interfered with their associations and try to create bad blood between these refugees and local people and instigate them to live in isolation like touts who feed fat at others expenses.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Am I to understand that I am a tout?

Mr. SPEAKER: You are inferring more than you ought to do.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Sir, in my own place at Jorhat, there are a lot of refugees in the land of Rai Bahadur where I also live. Some of the refugees tutored by their so-called leaders come to me for certificates. They tell me, "If you, Sir, give us certificates, we shall be able to get 3 or 4 thousand rupees." I enquire of them as to how could they come to know about this. They would reply that their President or the Secretary had assured them to manage this, provided a certificate from Shri Phookan could be procured. So, Sir, this is the way how the so-called leaders help the refugees. If these refugees get something, they only get a moiety of the total grant and majority of it goes to their so-called friends.

Therefore I advise my Friends, whether in the Opposition or on this side, to see that it is better not to interfere with the affairs of those refugees by the so-called friends and associations who have political motives. When my Friend says that there is some political motive on this side, I also say that there is similarly some political motive in his side also. It is a fact that different parties have different political ideologies. But we should not poke our nose into the distress of those people with our different ideologies, because that cannot solve the problem and that cannot make any solution. I advise everybody to see that these refugees are not allowed to remain apart from our midst and that they should go on remaining in colonies. The very word "colonialism" has been banned by the world politicians and yet "colonialism" has been established and more colonies are going to be established in every district of Assam. There are already so many colonies of refugees. This, I should say, means that though they are in our midst, they are people somewhat different from the people of Assam. That should not be allowed to continue. Let them live with us and let them die with us. They must share our happiness and our sorrows and we, theirs. That should be the ideology and under that ideology they can live here in peace. But the manner in which they are now living here in Assam will not solve the question for all time to come and there will be difficulties for them and their children and for the children of our people also some day.

Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the Cut Motion. The manner in which some matters relating to some good and innocent Government officers, have been referred to by the Members of Opposition Block, is in my opinion not good and reasonable. We ought not to lay any blame without any reasonable basis on any officers who are not here in the House to be able to defend themselves. So, Sir, is it reasonable on the part of the Opposition Members to refer to such officers who cannot defend themselves here? Is it reasonable on their part to drag the names of some other persons without any basis for the allegation? Is it reasonable on their part to cast any aspersion on some of the Members of the Cabinet without any fact? I should like to remind them that our rehabilitation question has been dealt with by our Government quite properly and so it has earned the appreciation of the Central Government. Sir, there are reports of appreciation sent by some responsible Ministers of the Central Government. From this fact they should think that our administrative machinery has been run quite properly. From these reports of appreciation they should judge how our administrative machinery is being run. Relating to this rehabilitation question the policy followed by our administrative machinery has been appreciated both by the people and the Central Government. I should remind Mr. Bhattacharyya that our administrative machinery of the Congress Government in the States and in the Centre has been appreciated not only by the people of India but by the whole world. In this respect I like to remind Mr. Bhattacharjyya to think about the Russian Communist Government machinery run by Stalin and how it has been decried by their own people.

Now, I should like to suggest one thing. Our Criminal Procedure Code has been amended with a view to expedite judicial matters, and so it is expected that the judicial matters will improve within a reasonable time. What I should like to make mention here is that in the spirit of the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code Government should see so that whenever any complaint or question comes that is taken up quickly and result expedited within a stipulated time. A standing order to this effect will go a great way to improve our administration and to earn the appreciation of the people.

I personally feel that Shillong has now become very much congested than before. But in proportion to its present population the roads are not so wide. I therefore think that special attention will be paid by the Government in this respect to

make the roads widened. Secondly, Sir, to lessen the congestion I think some of our Ministers should shift their Departments not concernig the hills to the plains. If the congestion can be lessened then I think the beauty of the town of Shillong can be maintained to some extent. I have seen Srinagar. The beauty of Srinagar can be comparable to that of Shillong. Even the people of Srinagar think that Shillong is more beautiful from the point of natural sceneries. I hope therefore our Government would think on this line and see so that the standard of Shillong can be raised from the point of sanitation, water supply, beauty, and so on.

Now, Sir, I come to Gauhati University. I personally think that some of us have some inferiority feeling. So, it is our duty to remove that feeling. Two policies are common in India one is centralization and the other is decentralization. There are some people who are for centralization and there are some who are for decentralization. But my humble submission is that the policy of decentralisation is not to be followed in Assam for some years, because we are to raise the status of our University in the level of other big universities like Calcutta University, Nagpur University, and so on, and we should see that all the good educational institutions are located nearabout the Gauhati University. We should not have any narrow and parochial view. If this inferiority feeling of some of the people of this State of Assam is to be removed, if this inferiority feeling of some of the people of this State of Assam is to be removed then one town must be raised to the status of a city. I leave it to the House to decide which particular town should be raised to the status of a city. But if we are to raise a town into a city then policy of concentration of important educational and industrial institutions round that town should be followed for some years. If my Friends say that these should be located in different places, I humbly differ from them. I would request them not to take a parochial view of the matter. If we can raise a town into the status of a city like Madras or Calcutta, then the Assamese people will be able to compete with the rest of India in many respects. So, my humble suggestion is that in carrying out any policy of centralisation, care should be taken to see that all big educational institutions are located near the Gauhati University to make good educational enviornment. In this connection, Sir, I would like to point out a Himalayan mistake which the Government are going to commit. I find that the Gauhati Jail is going to be shifted to Khanapara. This is, of course, a good idea. But I am surprised to find that the land where the jail is located at present is

going to be sold. If this is sold, Government will face difficulty in finding out land for various Government offices. Even now Government offices are located in different parts of the town and this causes great inconvenience to the public. As far as possible, all the Government offices should be located in one place. Moreover, with the growth of Gauhati town into a city as it is clear from the speech of the Finance Minister many more new offices will also come into existence. This land, therefore, should not be sold but kept reserved for Government purposes. It is no use making a plan for a city and not keeping land for further development. Government should proceed on a definite plan. In such matters, the Cabinet should not think in terms of money alone. Money will come automatically if there is a properly planned and well laid-out city.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami, please concentrate your remarks on the subject.

Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI: The subject is planning.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are talking of planning a city (*laughter*).

Shri. NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Planning comes under this head, and so I was talking about it.

Then, Sir, all the Acts need to be consolidated into codes. All the Acts are not available to us, and we, the practising lawyers, find a great deal of difficulty on this account. Therefore, my humble suggestion is that all the Acts should be consolidated into codes and made available throughout Assam. Then there is difficulty about availability of various court forms. I fail to understand why this simple difficulty cannot be removed. If our present Press cannot cope with the situation, why not start a new Press? I hope Government will appreciate the difficulty to which the lawyers and the litigant public are placed. I, therefore, draw the particular attention of the Minister concerned to remove these difficulties so that our administrative set-up in the judicial Department becomes smooth, speedy and efficient.

With these few words, I resume my seat.

Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় গভৰ্ণমেন্ট চলাওতে অনেক দোষ থাকি যায়। সেইবিলাক বিশ্লেষণ কৰি দেখুৱাবলৈ বিৰোধী দলৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে। আমাৰ বিধান সভাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰো সৃষ্টি একে কাৰণেই। অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা দেখা গল আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ কাম ভালৈই চলিছে আৰু বিৰোধী দলৰ বহুতো সদস্যই আমাৰ শাৰী ললেহি। মুঠতে দেখা গল বিৰোধী দল ডাঙি গল আৰু থাকিল মাত্ৰ সেনাপতি কেইজন। মই ভয় কৰিছিলো তেওঁবিলাক একেৰাৰে হতাশ হৈ সদনত আৰু অংশ গ্ৰহণ নকৰিব। কিন্তু এতিয়া দেখিছো তেওঁবিলাকৰ গৰম বক্তৃতাৰ কোৰ চলিছেহে। হৰব কথাই কাৰণ যেতিয়া গাত বল নাথাকে মুখৰ মাতৰাৰেই ডাঙৰ হব লাগিব। তাতে আকৌ এতিয়া দিনে দিনে নতুন নিৰ্বাচনৰ কাষ চাপিছে। উপায় কত? যেই কি নহওক মোৰ বিশ্বাস এইধৰণৰ গৰম বক্তৃতা আৰু বাইজ ভোল নাযায়।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় আমাৰ সদনত সদায় চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ দৰ্শনা বৃদ্ধি হব লাগে বুলি এটা আন্দোলন চলি আছে। তাৰ বাবে 'পে কমিটি' গঠিত হৈছে আৰু দৰ্শনা বৃদ্ধি হব বুলি কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক আনি আশ্বাস দি আহিছে। এই কাৰ্যত আমাৰ শতকৰা ৮৫ জন খেতিয়ক আৰু শতকৰা ১০ জন দুখীয়া মানুহৰ আৰ্থিক দুৱৰস্থালৈ লক্ষ্য কৰিব লাগিব। মুঠতে আমাৰ ভিতৰত শতকৰা ৯৫ জন মানুহেই দুখীয়া আৰু বাকী ৫ জনহে ধনী হব পাৰে।

এতিয়া আমাৰ গড়ে আয় বছৰি ২৬৫৭ টকা, আৰু এই হিচাপৰ ভিতৰত ধনীসকলে। পৰি গৈছে। গতিকে এই শতকৰা ৯৫ জন মানুহৰ বছৰি আয় ১০০ টকাতকৈ বেছি হব নোৱাৰে। আমাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ দৰমহাৰ নিৰীখ ঠিক কৰোতেও তেওঁলোকৰ অৱস্থালৈ লক্ষ্য ৰাখিব লাগিব। এই শতকৰা ৯৫ জন মানুহৰ অৱস্থা ভাল হলেহে কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক বেচি দৰমহা দিব পৰা হব আৰু দিবও লাগিব।

ওপৰ খাপৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ দৰমহা অৱশ্যে বেচি দিব লগা হৈছে, দেশত এই শতকৰা ৫ ভাগ ধনী মানুহ থকাৰ বাবেই। ধৰক এজন ডেপুটি কমিচনাৰক ২০০/৩০০ টকা দৰমহা দি ৰাখিব নোৱাৰি কাৰণ তেওঁ অনেক ধনী মানুহৰ সংশ্ৰুত আহিব লগা হয়। সেই কাৰণে ধনী সকলৰ লগত চৰকাৰৰ মান ৰাখি চলিব পৰাতকৈ বেচি দৰমহা দিব লগা হৈছে। ইবিলাক কৰ্মচাৰীৰ দৰ্শনা বান্ধোৱে দুখীয়া মানুহৰ অৱস্থালৈ লক্ষ্য ৰাখিব লাগিব। কৰ্মচাৰী সকলো আমাৰ দেশৰ মানুহ গতিকে মই তেওঁলোকক অনুৰোধ কৰো যেন আমাৰ দেশৰ দুখীয়া জনসাধাৰণৰ অৱস্থালৈ চাই আন্দোলন নকৰি সন্তুষ্ট থাকিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰে।

Mr. SPEAKER: The total expenditure on account of General Administration and Administration of Justice is 5.5 per cent.

আমাৰ আয়ৰ শতকৰা ৫.৫ ভাগ বেচি ধৰা হৈছে। আগেয়ে শতকৰা ১২.৫ ভাগ আছিল।

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA: শতকৰা ৫.৫ ভাগ কৰ্মচাৰীৰ কাৰণে এতিয়া খৰচ হব পাৰে। দেশৰ উন্নতিৰ কামত টকা বেচিকৈ খৰচ কৰাৰ কাৰণে সন্তোষিত কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ দৰমহাত খৰচ কৰাৰ হাৰ এতিয়া কম হৈছে।
Voice—লক্ষিত উদ্ভিত তা মিলনা আহিয়ে

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is really distressing to find that some of the hon. Members who have many years of experience of this House instead of placing dispassionately arguments in support of their contentions, were making outbursts without any basis on facts. Today, my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, who is a responsible citizen and the Chairman of the Karimganj Municipal Board and a responsible Member of this House for a pretty long time, made some allegations without giving any specific instance. He has some phobia against certain persons, who are his political opponents, like Shri Arabinda Chaudhury. From the statements he made about them, it seems he has some sort of hallucination against them, like Kangsa who had the hallucination before even Krishna's birth that Krishna would kill him and so he was determined to kill Krishna as soon as he was born, but before he was attacked by Krishna he had the hallucination of seeing Krishna everywhere and before Krishna attacked him he was thinking that he was killed. Similarly, I must warn my Friend that he should not allow himself to continue in this hallucination because it may be a political death to him before he is attacked.

Sir, in fact, Shri Das knows it particularly well that this Relief and Rehabilitation Department was under the Central Government for several years and at that time there were innumerable representations that this Relief and Rehabilitation Department should be taken over by the State Government. When he brought these allegations, he did not mention whether these took place in the time when this Department was under the Central Government or.....

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : 80 per cent of these took place at the time the State Government has been in-charge.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : I am to reply on the facts he stated. Now, I cannot allow him to interfere in my speech.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : I can clarify.

Mr. SPEAKER : Ranendra Babu, if you want to clarify or give your personal explanation you will have to take the permission of the Chair and if the Chair directs you then only you can speak, otherwise you cannot

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): I am sorry to say that he does not know definitely when these things took place. Such outbursts against certain particular opponents of his, when they are not present in the House—and using unparliamentary words against them on the floor of this House as touts and cheats, are against Parliamentary etiquette.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I stated their names as some Ministers wanted to hear them.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): After the Relief and Rehabilitation Department was taken over by this State Government from the Centre, many responsible officers came and made enquiries and they gave very good certificates that the Assam Government have been managing the affairs of this Department very satisfactorily. These certificates were published in the newspapers at different times. Even when Mr. Khanna, the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister of India, came to Assam he made a statement after touring for 10 or 12 days in this State that this Government is managing the affairs of the Department very efficiently and satisfactorily. If Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das keeps a balance of mind and studies these certificates for appreciating the work done by this Government, he, I am sure, would not make these unfounded allegations.

Sir, it is known to many of my Friends that there are many refugee associations in this State, who belong to non-Congress political parties and when we took over this Department from the Centre, we heard about these associations, and the first thing we had to do was to dissolve these associations because we got information that these associations were coercing money from the refugees at the time of getting loan for political game. For instance, when a loan is sanctioned and the loanee receives it, he had the right to give any amount he likes as contribution or subscription to anybody he desires. Unless, he brings allegation that he has been coerced to pay such contribution or subscription, the Government cannot do anything. These associations were represented in the Advisory Committee formed for the purpose of relief and rehabilitation of the refugees. There were several such associations in Cachar district. Before taking up of the Department, we informed the Central Government that under the circumstances, we wanted to dissolve these Advisory Committee and they agreed with us. So before taking over charge of Relief and Rehabilitation work in Cachar we dissolved these Advisory Committees.

Adjournment

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

After Lunch

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was just telling the House that Shri Ranendra Mohan Das was narrating the events about relief and rehabilitation matters relating presumably to the period during which the relief and rehabilitation work was being carried on directly by the Government of India and that must be about six or seven years ago. During these six or seven years I know nothing about these events as alleged by my Friend. He knows about these things for the last six or seven years but he was silent all the time. He did not raise any voice of protest nor did he represent these things to the Government. So from all these things it will appear that his outburst here today in narrating events of the past which are not based on facts, is nothing but his electioneering speech most probably in order to have influence over these displaced persons by making these irresponsible statements on the floor of this House.

For the information of the House, Sir, I must say that during last April, I visited this Sonbeel area personally and I was very glad to find there are some people who were rehabilitating themselves—they were all with smiling face and appeared to be quite happy. As a matter of fact, I addressed a public meeting where not less than five thousand people were present. They read out to me addresses of welcome and they did not appear to have any of the grievances as has been stated by my Friend today on the floor of this House. So, till April last when I personally met them, there were no such allegations brought to my notice. I also learnt from the Deputy Commissioner who was himself a responsible man and liked by all, that these allegations were not there.

Sir, it is known to all hon. Members that the Relief and Rehabilitation Department generally encourage the refugees to negotiate with parties who can afford to give them settlement of lands because it is not possible for Government to

establish colonies of displaced persons in different parts of the State or to remove the difficulties of all the refugees. As and when the refugees secure lands by such private negotiations, rehabilitation loans are given after necessary enquiries are made by the Deputy Commissioner. So, Sir, in these matters relating to the refugees, I submit that the outbursts of my Friend today are practically meaningless except, as I have said, only for electioneering campaign carried on here by throwing mud here and there for his own advantage.

Now, Sir, as regards another point that has been raised by my Friend about displaced persons. Of course, I quite agree that we have not been able to establish a permanent Home for the displaced persons. But as a matter of fact we have a scheme involving an expenditure of about 8 lakhs of rupees for construction of permanent Home for displaced persons in Silchar in which we want also to start a training *cum*-production centre. But my Friend made another suggestion that there should be another such Home in Karimganj also. Sir, it is the intention of the Government to concentrate all these displaced persons and the unattached women and children who are accommodated in these Homes to be brought together in one place for better and more convenient management and also to utilise their services for their own benefit as well as for other welfare activities. With this end in view we are thinking of establishing one such permanent Home of Displaced persons not only in Cachar but also one in the plains districts of the Brahmaputra Valley at Nowgong. One such Home is proposed to be established in Nowgong.

Besides this, Sir, as it is known to hon. Members of this House, there are various schemes for rehabilitating these unattached women and children; under these schemes centres will be started for giving them vocational training in weaving, tailoring and many other crafts like cane and bamboo works, smithy and such kinds of works. In some places sericulture centres will be started for training these people in spinning, weaving, etc. According to necessity training-*cum*-production centres will be started in different parts of the State where these displaced persons are concentrated.

Now, Sir, my Friend Shri Bhattacharyya.....

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: One word, Sir. Is there any responsible officer placed in-charge of these Homes of unattached women and children?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Yes, there are responsible persons like Superintendents who are in-charge of these Homes. But the difficulty is dearth of trained personnel for the purpose. That is why we want to concentrate these people in one place rather than scatter them all over the State so that one responsible officer can remain in-charge. It is very difficult, Sir, to get people with a social outlook to be placed in-charge of these Homes ; that is another reason why we want to minimise, as far as possible, establishment of these Homes.

Now, Sir, as I was about to say that my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, raised the question about census. I think my Friend knows that census is going on at present. As a matter of fact the Government already started in collecting statistical figures of all persons who claim to be displaced persons, whether their claim is genuine or not and also we want to make classification of these persons in different categories whether they are agriculturists, tradesmen or simply middle men and so on. This classification and collection of statistical figures is going on and my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, knows that. So I do not understand the meaning of his suggestion that a census should be taken in this connection. He did not give that suggestion to me nor to the Minister-in-charge before-hand. But even without any suggestion from him or from outside, the census has already been started. As a matter of fact the census is made under direction from the Government of India for ascertaining the class of refugees as to how they will be employed and how many of them have been rehabilitated. All these figures will be available after the result of the census is out which has been started already in different parts of the State.

For the information of the hon. Members who are interested in the question of relief and rehabilitation of refugees, I may state that as much as 1,20,000 bighas of land have so far been made available to these persons. The land problem in Assam is a chronic problem. It must be known to us all that we are not only to provide land to the refugees who have come from East Bengal, but we have to provide also land to the indigenous people whose lands have been eroded or adversely affected by flood. Therefore, this is a common problem and it must be looked at as such by the hon. Members of this House as well as the representatives of the refugees. We cannot provide land to the refugees to the exclusion of those people who have lost their lands due to flood or whose lands have been rendered useless. In this context it is up to those who have been making different statements on different occasions at different

places regarding refugees, to create an atmosphere in the country so that the refugees instead of being agitated may feel that this is their own country and identify themselves with the interest of the State in which they are living and make a common cause with the local people. If they can earn the goodwill of the local people, they will not only get shelter from them but will be treated as their own people without any difference from them. I have made it clear on different occasion that the local people should treat this as a humanitarian problem and it is upto local people also to create an atmosphere of love and brotherly feeling so that the unfortunate refugees in Assam may feel that they are in the midst of their own men who are sympathetic to them. Sir, we have heard many statements about other States in regard to this refugee question but we have heard very little about Assam. Unless some kinds of aggressive part is taken by some misguided people coming from East Bengal at the instigation of some political parties, there can be no ill feeling whatsoever among the local people towards the refugees. After all these refugees are generally simple and docile people, but when they play into the hands of political parties they become aggressive. That is why I have been appearing to this House that it is a crime to utilise these refugees as tools—taking advantage of their distress—in furtherance of some one's political cause. That appeal I have always been making and I hope that my friends will also realise that is not at all good to utilise these unfortunate people as pawns in their political game.

The total amount of loan that has been given up till now to displaced persons is Rs.4.72 crores. Out of this amount, 16,690 families have been paid loans up to ceiling, and 35,000 families have been sanctioned loans in instalments. We have been paying in instalments only for want of money, but we have been pressing the Government of India to give us more money so that we can pay these loans in one instalment and the refugees can be gainfully rehabilitated.

There are 208 colonies of displaced persons in Assam, a large number of which are Government sponsored. These colonies accommodate nearly 17,000 families. Apart from sanctioning necessary loans to these families, Government have sanctioned about Rs.25 lakhs for their development with a view to provide such amenities as roads, water-supply, medical facilities, primary education facilities, markets, irrigation and drainage, etc. 48 Schemes for the rehabi-

litation of displaced persons have so far been sanctioned, at a cost of nearly Rs.1,12,00,000. These comprise agricultural, non-agricultural, mixed-agricultural, housing and marketing schemes

There are also facilities provided for displaced persons living in urban and semi-urban areas. My Friend, Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, is perhaps thinking that urban areas are only those areas which are within the Municipality. This aberration of thinking on the part of my Friend sometimes leads him to wrong conclusions. It is known to us all that in a number of towns Government have secured lands either by acquisition or by negotiations with private parties for establishing colonies of displaced persons who have thus found gainful employment in those areas. Markets have also been constructed in six towns at a total cost of Rs.14,30,000 to provide stalls and other marketing facilities to these persons.

Government have also spent a large sum of money in providing educational facilities to these displaced persons. A sum of Rs.27,60,000 has been spent so far in giving stipends and free studentships to displaced students in Schools, Colleges and Technical Institutions and in giving them cash grants for purchase of books and for examination fees, etc. 34 Lower Primary Schools have been opened for the primary education of the children of displaced persons in colonies and a proposal for establishing another 66 Lower Primary Schools has been submitted to the Government of India.

For the purpose of gainful employment of these displaced persons we are also thinking of not only training *cum* production centres in cottage industry but also thinking of setting up some new Technical Schools for the purpose of providing technical education to displaced students. Also we are giving admission to refugee students in the Medical College, Cotton College and in the existing Technical institutions. But so far we are not aware of such a liberal policy as being followed in any other States except in Assam in the matter of giving all these educational facilities as far as possible.

Sir, we are also thinking of starting certain industries for these people. As the greatest concentration of refugees appears to be in the district of Cachar, naturally there are facilities for some large and medium sized industries and we have moved the Government of India to sponsore some of these large and medium sized industries there so that gainful employment may be provided to the refugee people. Of course, in these programmes

policy has always been that instead of giving facilities only to the displaced persons to the exclusion of the local people. We want the local people also to participate in these industries with a view to foster a harmonious feeling between the refugees and the indigenous population. We want to develop these industries, wish full co-operation of the refugees as well as local people so that a better feeling may prevail between the refugees and all the other people living in this State of ours. We want that all the people inhabiting this State of ours live together in peace and harmony and identify themselves with the interest of the State. We are anxious to create an atmosphere in the country which is essential for proper employment and rehabilitation of the refugees and I am quite sure that my Friends, Mr. Bhattacharyya and Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, will realize that this relief and rehabilitation problem can be solved without difficulty if there is free and frank dealings between all classes and communities of people and if there is appreciation of each other's difficulties. Then and then only difficulties can be solved. Difficulties are always there, and we must be prepared to face these difficulties with courage and determination.

For mere satisfaction some of us may make certain utterances on the floor of this House, but that does not solve our problem. Sir, I had visited Cachar on different occasions, but Ranendra Babu never brought to my notice any of this allegation he has made for the first time. I am glad that at one time some representation was made to me with specific information. As a matter of fact, hon. Members should try to give us the correct information and other materials on which we could take proper action. But instead of doing that to make certain utterances on the floor of the House for the purpose of next General election will not surely solve our problems.

Today, I was surprised to see that some ruling had to be given by the Deputy Speaker when Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das uttered that the Deputy Speaker did not allow him to speak, and that utterance, the Deputy Speaker might have brought before the Privileges Committee. But we considered that most probably Ranendra Babu lose his temper generally.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, I was quite in my sense.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, that sort of outburst does not enhance the dignity of the House.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Sir, may I know what precautionary measures Government have been taken against grant of loans to undeserving persons?

(2) May I know what steps Government have been taken to verify the proper utilisation of such loans?

In my district I know in the name of some refugees a big sum of loan was taken by underserving persons. Some drastic steps should have been taken against such undeserving persons.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, in this matter of granting loans to refugees we cannot say that all our officers are angels and above board. Sir, I think the M.L.As. should bring the specific instances to the notice of the Government for taking suitable action against the officers against whom allegation is made instead of putting questions on the floor of the House.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Then, Sir, this is an old complaint.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): That is a different matter altogether. Mr. Umaruddin raised certain matter. He stated that some refugees have got big amount of loans for starting industries from the Government of India. Probably the big loans were taken from the Rehabilitation Finance Department of the Government of India, over which we have no control. If these facts are brought to our notice, we will try to draw the attention of the Government of India. But as far as our loans are concerned, the State Government can hardly advance any big loans to refugees because the State Government's fund is not sufficient. So the question of granting big loans to refugees does not arise. There may be instances that without any recommendation and without any knowledge of the State Government the Rehabilitation Finance Department of the Government of India might grant certain big loans. We expect if the hon. members would bring certain instances to our notice, we will certainly write to the Government of India not to grant such loans without consulting the State Government by the Rehabilitation Finance Department of the Government of India. So, Sir, this is a matter for the hon. Members to bring instances of this kind to our notice so that we can take up matters with the Government of India.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, on a personal point of information, I also agree with the Chief Minister in this matter. I have been cheated on one occasion when I certified a refugee for granting loans. But, Sir, whenever in this respect any inquiry was made by the exRelief and Rehabilitation

Commissioner, Shri Dharmananda Das and Mr. A. N. Kidwai, I always helped them and co-operated with them. If you like you may enquire about this.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, as for the certificate Ranendra Babu is reported to have stated that no complaint was made to the Deputy Commissioner or Mr. Kidwai about Sonbil Rehabilitation. This proves that the statement he has made on the floor of the House is not based on facts.

Sir, this is all what I wanted to say about relief and rehabilitation matters. We also feel that if such instances are brought to our notice, we may be able to improve our administration. There is no doubt about it. We cannot expect that all our officers are angels and above board. From some places, particularly from Karimganj, absolutely false instances are brought to our notice in such a way that it is very difficult for us to ascertain whether it is true or false. But our officers examine such matters very carefully.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, what the Chief Minister has told is perfectly true. Certain persons have obtained a certificate from me for giving false interpretation. So steps should be taken in this direction.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Now, Sir, as regards certain points raised by Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya in the matter of land settlement to our Government servants here in Shillong, I want to say a few words. It is probably not known to him that before the settlement of Government land to our employees we constructed certain Government quarters under the direct supervision of the Public Works Department with a view to accommodate them. But due to the increase in numbers of our employees it was not possible to construct more Government quarters with a view to accommodate them. Then we decided to allot Government land to deserving persons. In allotting land certain specific conditions were laid down by us that after the construction of the house if a Government servant is transferred, or if he is retired, he cannot let out the house or transfer the property without the permission of the Deputy Commissioner. The Government servant who is allotted the land will have no right of transfer. The right of transfer vests in the Government. If the allottee wants to sell the house, he will have to do so with the permission of Deputy Commissioner preferably to a Government Servant. Deputy Commissioner, who in his turn also may select the transferee will fix the

price for sale. Under these restricted conditions the settlement of Government land in Shillong had been made to Government Servant.

Thirdly, it may be known that we are trying to solve the problem by taking up a scheme for providing accommodation to the bachelor Assistants. We are proposing to construct houses for the bachelors after acquiring some property.

Then there are suggestions to the effect that why we are not shifting some of the offices from Shillong to Gauhati. It may be known to the hon. Members that our Deputy Director of Agriculture and Assistant Director of Health Services are posted in such places wherefrom they are in a position to come in direct touch with the masses. The Superintending Engineers have got their offices in different places. The Director of Veterinary is at Gauhati. The 3 Inspector of Schools are also in places other than Shillong. There is also a proposal to transfer the office of Secretary, School Board from Shillong to plains district. We are trying to do that consistent with the administrative convenience. Moreover, my Friends know the housing difficulty in Gauhati. It has become very congested. If we are to transfer some of the offices, we shall have to provide the officers with quarters for their accommodation also for the accommodation of the offices. The hands of the Public Works Department is full. They cannot also undertake large scale construction work. So if we are to do that we shall have to do it under a plan. But the hon. Members should remember that most of the Heads of Departments are absolutely necessary here for discussion. With regard to the question of coming in contact with the masses, the procedure is that whenever any Heads of Department goes out on tour, he invariably sends his tour programme to the District Offices. The tour programme is also published in the Gazette. In course of his tour in the districts he is expected to meet the representatives of the local people, he hears their grievances, if any, and takes steps for their redress. The instructions are there to act in this way. Sir, it must be admitted that things have improved a lot after the attainment of independence. Of course, there may be some officers who have not yet able to adjust themselves to the changed situation or they are lacking in experience in efficiently discharging their duties in a Welfare State. But for the information of the Hon. Members I can say that we are thinking of having an institution for giving training to all of our officers in these various welfare activities, namely :—

1. Labour Welfare and Industrial relations.

2. Family and Child welfare.
3. Medical and Psychiatric social work.
4. Community organisation and development.
5. Rural welfare.
6. Tribal welfare.
7. Criminology, Juvenile Delinquency and correctional Administration.

It is expected that it will help the officers to have a correct background in their mind so that they may be able to appreciate the objective of a welfare State and be able to utilise their training in establishing a welfare State. Sir, we are trying to convert the Police State into a welfare State by stages. That can be done by stages and in a non-violent way. We have recruited a large number of officers and we are giving them training in the Community Development Projects and in the Welfare Centres. We are trying to send some of these people to the training centre at Bombay where the course of training is for two years, But as we cannot wait for two years, we are trying to have an Institution in our State itself. For that purpose we invited the Director of Tata Institute, of Social Sciences, Mr. Wadia. He came and examined the Tribal welfare activities, the Labour welfare activities and other activities and also the question as to how best our officers can be trained in this Institute. We are providing a six months training to the new entrants for the time being. In our Medical College itself we have a Training Class for imparting some training to the doctors in social matters, so that the doctors may be useful in the rural areas. The World Organisation of Health sent a Swiss doctor here to give training and the opportunity is being availed of by our students in the Medical College.

Sir, after the proposed Institution is established, we are thinking of sending our Deputy Commissioners, and the Heads of Departments there to undergo a refresher course. We are impressing upon our officers to adjust themselves to the changed circumstances and they have responded to the call admirably. There may be few on whom the sense of responsibility might not have dawned as yet as it has not dawned on some of our political parties (*Laughter*).

The members belonging to some political parties go and mislead the people by saying that they should not co-operate with the Government. For instance where Government seek the co-operation of the people in the matter of constructing a road by voluntary labour, they are asked by some interested parties not to do it, but to insist on the Government to get the work done by tractors. This is our experience, Sir. Sometimes they tell the people of a locality to oppose the construction of road on the ground that it will enable the Government to send Military personnel in trucks easily in those areas to harass the people. This does not at all help us in ushering in a welfare State. Sir, I was happy to hear the speech of my Friend Sri, Bhattacharyya, at the beginning, but I found at the end he got irritated. Of course there are some good suggestions in his speech which will be taken into consideration. We are trying to train up our officers in the proposed institute where not only our officers but also workers of non-official organisations engaged in social welfare works may be trained in these institutions that they may be able to discharge the duties they may be called upon to perform to the satisfaction of all concerned, and help us in our dream of ushering in a welfare State.

Another point that Shri Bhattacharyya has referred to is the reduction of the wide gap that exists at present between low paid and high paid salary groups. The hon. Member should remember that there are two classes of officers—one class is subject to the rule making power of the Central Government and the other class of officers is subject to the rule making power of the State Government. The services and emoluments of the former class is guaranteed under the Constitution, such as the I. A. S. and the I. C. S. We want to be loyal to our Constitution. Naturally therefore we cannot do anything with regard to the services and emoluments of these people just as we like. In 1948 a Pay Committee was set up. Our objective was to see that the pay and emoluments together should not at least be less than Rs.50 per month in the lowest rung of the Government service. Accordingly the Pay Committee in 1948 fixed the highest salary at Rs. 1,500. of officers who come under the purview of the rule making power of the State, *i. e.* the Secretaries and the Heads of the Departments. This is about 30 times higher than the salary of those in the lowest rung. But in fact, if we take into consideration the deductions on account of income-tax and deduction made on account of providing free houses by Government, the actual pay of the higher paid group comes down roughly to about Rs. 1,400.

Now, as regards the suggestion that certain part of the Dearness Allowance now given to officers should form a part of the basic salary, I would like to say that this has been our objective from a long time past. And as a matter of fact, I have passed an order about a year ago to examine the question and to ascertain as to how much of the Dearness Allowance can be allowed to form part of the basic salary. In the meantime we have set up another Pay Committee to examine the question as to how the pay scale of the lower paid group can be improved. Our intention is to reduce the gap as far as possible. In this connection another thing should also be borne in mind. Now we give to the best of our man, *e. g.* the Chief Engineer Rs. 1,500. If he goes elsewhere he is likely to get as much as Rs. 3,000. So this aspect also is to be considered. We may of course, persuade the officer to come forward to accept Government services at the lower rate of pay, but this will take time. Now, therefore, the only thing that we can do is to try to raise the pay scale of the lower paid group. Now the Pay Committee from some time past are considering this question. I can assure the House that we are next to none in our desire to see that this wide gap between officers and officers is reduced as far as practicable in consistent with the efficiency and financial resources of the country. Because we always feel that unless we can raise the economic standard of the people, we cannot expect to achieve the prosperity of the country as a whole. But to achieve this end, raising of the emoluments of the low paid group is not the only solution. We should also be able to exploit the untapped economic resources of our country with a view to increase production of wealth which can be evenly distributed amongst the people. Government of India has sanctioned half of the Dearness Allowance to be merged in pay. This matter is now being considered by the Pay Committee that we have set up. Some of the hon. Members of the House are Members of this Pay Committee, and those who are not, I hope they will also come and give their suggestions to the Pay Committee which I am sure, will welcome their suggestions.

In considering the salary of our officers, one more factor is to be considered. With the increase in the tempo of our works, development and otherwise, and also the increase of population, the volume of work has gone up several times. To cope with this increasing volume of work, we are increasing the number of our officers to a great extent. But by simply increasing the number recruits to Government services we

cannot expect to solve the problem. Along with this, we have to increase the efficiency of our officers so that our works can be done efficiently and within the shortest time possible with the minimum number of workers. This will result in saving of money which can be utilised in our various social and developmental projects.

Sir, these are some of the ways by which we are trying to tackle our problems.

Now as regards the points raised by Shri Bhattacharyya that a certain officer did his job very well at Gauhati, and therefore he should not have been transferred to Tura.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I simply said that the officer might find it difficult to adjust himself quickly to the changing circumstances.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Yes, I quite understand the point.

That is no reason why such officers should not be changed. A great deal of care is taken by me in transferring an officer to the hill areas, and after I am satisfied that he is doing well there he is allowed to continue there and it is done in the best interest of the people and the country. Because a Deputy Commissioner does not agree to the views of some political parties, he cannot be blamed for that. You cannot find fault with him for that reason alone. Officers must be free from any political views and by doing so it cannot be said that they cannot adjust themselves. A reasonable Government is bound to protect not only the public but also the officers from unjust criticism and vilifications. We must create confidence in the minds of our officers so that they can work with proper initiative. Mere utterances that certain officers are not suitable for certain areas cannot be accepted. We cannot say that certain officers are not suitable for certain areas. Mr Bhattacharyya made the statement in this respect probably because the officer concerned could not comply with an unreasonable request of his or did not agree to his political ideologies. Our officers have got the duty to do justice to all section of the people. Under the circumstances there should be no complaint about this. My Friend also referred to Mr. Carvalho. He has forgotten for the time being that in the Naga Hills there is a public opinion of some section of the people demanding complete political independence and this demand has been made by the extremist Members of the

Naga National Council led by Phizo whose leadership is responsible for violence, murder, threat, dacoities, and so on. So, is it not the duty of our officers to protect the people victimised by the extremist Nagas under his leadership? Is it not the duty of our officers to stop such offences being committed? Our officers cannot allow such gangsters' rule to continue any more. I think my Friend does not know well what is happening there. The extremist Nagas keep themselves hiding in the jungles and whenever they find that the police is not there, they commit dacoities and take away everything including the ration. In such circumstances is it not the duty of our officers to take all precautionary measures in order to protect the people from gangsterism? We must put down gangsterism at any cost because no Government can tolerate it. No Government can allow such offences to be committed and to violate law and order. In one hand we have been winning the people through our development works but on the other hand a feeling of insecurity has been created by threat and violence in order to coerce the tribal group to join the gangsters. Is it not therefore our duty to create an alternative leadership there so that the loyal citizens of the Naga Hills can be protected from such gangsterism? Nobody, even the leader of the Communist Party in the Parliament, favours such a state of gangsters' rule in the Naga Hills. When all the leaders of different political parties in India and the heads of the District Councils and others have failed to prevail upon the Naga leader to give up his Ideology how Mr. Carvalho can persuade him to do so. Yet Mr. Carvalho has succeeded to bring a large number of Naga people to dissociate with Phizo and his gangsters who is trying to create a reign of terror in Naga Hills.

My Friend made mention regarding the Assam Code and I will now give some materials in this respect. Volume I is Central Acts. The new edition will be available by the middle of April next. The reasons for the delay in republication of the Code are nonavailability of materials, publication of the Second Five Year Plan and transfer of a part of the Press to Gauhati.

Volume II is Bengal Acts. Its immediate publication is not necessary.

Volume III is Assam Acts upto 1936. The edition is expected to be published by about August/September.

Volume IV part I. It is Assam Acts 1938-1948. The copies are ready in the Press and will be issued as soon as binding is completed.

Volume IV, Part II. It is Assam Acts 1948-52. The final proof is under scrutiny in the Department. The copies are expected to be out by July next.

Regarding the percentage of expenditure on the general administration I will give the figure. In 1954-55 the actual expenditure was 3.8. In the revised estimate in 1955-56 and the budget estimate in 1956-57 the percentage comes to 2.6. This shows what a great reduction we have made in the general administration.

Now I come to the point regarding improvement of the Statistical Department. During the first Five-Year Plan we have increased the staff. It may not be known to my Friend that this Department is a very dry department and some officers some times leave the Department looking for better emoluments. These are some of the reasons why we have not been able to improve this Department. Yet under the Second Five Year Plan there is a scheme for improvement of this Department involving an expenditure of 20 lakhs of rupees. In the meantime we have set up the required machinery. For the development of this Department and other Department we have allowed statistical cells to be made so that they can collect all data necessary for real development during the interim period when the Statistical Department is not fully developed.

As a matter of fact, I am trying to get more money from the Government of India to develop this Department and I am glad to state, Sir, that I have succeeded in getting sanction of Rs.20 lakhs in the next Five Year Plan for the development of the Statistics Department.

Then, Sir, as regards bringing people in contact with our development activities, it is known that there are local development committees in all the districts and subdivisions, in which officers representing different departments and non-officials representing all political parties and social organisations are there. They prepare plans and execute them. In the Community Project works also, there is an Advisory Board and all decisions are taken by that Board. The Board takes care that all the development works are initiated by the people. Our officers are there in an advisory capacity to help them with facts and materials as well as help them to come to a decision. In this way, we have succeeded to a great extent in bringing about closer contact between the district officers and the people. Our officers now realise that they must not be bureaucratic as in

pre-independence days. But it will take some time to bring about a complete change in their outlook; nevertheless, Sir, we have achieved much in that direction. Our officers now understand the position and their responsibilities to the people.

Mr. Bhattacharyya cited one instance of alleged misbehaviour by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner towards a refugee. I enquired of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner and he said that this was an absolutely incorrect statement, no one was ever driven out of his house discourteously. This is his version. Moreover, Sir, he says that the district officers, *viz.*, the Relief and Rehabilitation Officers are generally very courteous in their dealings with the refugees. As a matter of fact, we want to have some refugee employeers in these offices. Government also feel that our officers should be courteous in their dealings throughout the year and not during the courtesy week only. Courtesy with us is not a stunt. Unlike some people, we want to be same at every time, whether before the election time or during the election time or after the election is over, we want to be the same always; we want to be courteous to every one. This is our objective. I hope my Friend will try to help us in achieving this objective.

I am glad, Sir, that Mr. Bhattacharyya gave certain concrete suggestions and I can assure him that these will be taken into consideration. In view of what I have said, I hope my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, will see his way to withdraw his cut motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you withdrawing?
(Mr. Bhattacharyya nodded his head signifying assent)
(The Motion was, by the leave of the House, withdrawn.)

Mr. SPEAKER: There are two Cut Motions in the name of Mr. Khongphai. But unfortunately the time is up.

Shri A. S. KHONGPHAI: I won't take long, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right, please move both the Motions together.

Shri A. S. KHONGPHAI: In view of the discussions which have already taken place on Mr. Bhattacharyya's Motions and the reply given by the Chief Minister, I shall confine myself only to two points, in moving my Motions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

That the total provision of Rs.1,31,06,300 under Grant No. 11, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 52 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,31,06,300 do stand reduced by Re.1 ;

and

That the total provision of Rs.1,31,06,300 under Grant No. 11, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 52 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,31,06,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, the object of my Motions is to discuss the inadvisability of changing the departmental and district heads very often and to criticise the allotment of work to different offices which has led to overwork to some and less work to others.

Sir, my idea in moving these Motions is not to effect any cut in the emoluments of the Head of the State, *i.e.*, Governor, or the Chief Minister or other Ministers. As a matter of fact, the emoluments which they get are nothing compared to what are received by their staff. I also do not question the expenditure in respect of the pay of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Members of the State Legislature and others for whom provision has been made under Grant No.11. What I want to point out is how best we can utilise the services of our officers, particularly the Heads of Departments and the district officers. We have found that unless the Heads of Departments and the district officers are assured of stability for some time in one station, they cannot put their whole enthusiasm in the work because they may be transferred before the work undertaken by them is finished. We know, Sir, now-a-days so many people approach the Heads of Departments and district officers requesting them to do this thing or that thing. Some even go to the length of trying to influence them. This, of course, should not be our approach. We should try to co-operate with the officers in the discharges of their duties and responsibilities. And this spirit of co-operation between officers and people develops better if the officers are allowed to remain in a particular place for a reasonable period of time.

Then, Sir, coming to my second point, I realise that with the increase of work now-a-days, it is not always possible to have water-tight compartments ; but in the distribution of work amongst various offices there should be proper adjustment. In some of the offices I have seen that some branches, for instance, the Accounts Branch in the district offices, are heavily

worked whereas in some other branches the work is light. This mal-adjustment in the distribution of work should be removed as far as possible, in the interest of the efficiency of the administration.

I, therefore, hope Sir, that Government will also agree that it is not advisable to change them very soon. This is the case with the Heads of Departments as well as Heads of Districts. I would urge upon the Government not to change these officers frequently unless there are specific allegations against them, but, at the same time, it is not desirable to allow the same man to be in one place for a pretty long time.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the point you are advancing ?

Mr. A. S. KHONGPHAI: The point is that an officer should be allowed to work in a place at his own discretion and he should not be transferred from one place to another unless he puts in a specific period of service or when there is any definite allegation against him.

Mr. SPEAKER: For how many years he should be kept in a station ?

Mr. A. S. KHONGPHAI: He should be kept in a station for not less than 3 years and this should be especially in the case of a Head of Department who should be in-charge of the department for a certain length of time. Now, we find that many officers are transferred frequently; this state of affairs does not improve the administration.

Sir, about distribution of work the Government should also carefully see that equal distribution of work is allotted to different offices.

With these few words, I hope that my suggestions will be taken by Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motions moved are :

That the total provision of Rs.1,31,06,300 under Grant No.11, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 52 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,31,06,300 do stand reduced by Re.1 ;

and

That the total provision of Rs.1,31,06,300, under Grant No. 11, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 52

of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,31,06,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Mr. SPEAKER : Cut Motion No. 4 is in the name of Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed. Are you moving the Cut Motion Mr. Tajuddin Ahmed ?

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED : No, Sir.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever I could follow from the speech of Mr. Khongphai is that he does not like that district officers are transferred frequently.

Sir, if I place facts before the House, I hope, he will understand that we do not transfer district officers unless it is absolutely necessary for the public interest and for exigencies of circumstances. We have got 12 district officers. The District Officer of Lakhimpur is in that district since 1952. The District Officer of Garo Hills, Mr. Bhatnagar is in that district since 1953. Mr. Iyer is in-charge of Mizo Hills since 1953. In Sibsagar District the officer is there since 1954. In Nowgong since 1955 because there was transfer of the former officer who had to be brought as Commissioner of Excise. In Darrang the officer is there since 1955. In Goalpara Mr. Angami has been in-charge of the district since 1955, but he was there as Additional District Magistrate for some time before he took over charge of the district. He was promoted on consideration of his experience in that district and as Shri Lakheswar Baruah had to be brought here as Commissioner of the State Transport. Mr. Altaf Ahmed was sent as Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup as in 1955 Mr. Carvalho had to be transferred to Naga Hills. In Mikir Hills, Mr. Phukan has been in-charge since 1955. In the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Mr. Booth has been in-charge since 1953. As you know, Mr. Kidwai had to be promoted as Commissioner, Mr. Subramanian was appointed as Secretary, Relief and Rehabilitation considering that he had acquired good knowledge of Relief and Rehabilitation as Deputy Commissioner, Cachar and he was popular with all parties. In addition to his duties of Relief and Rehabilitation Secretary, he has also been appointed as Additional Secretary, Finance Department. In his place Mr. K. D. Singh has been transferred as Deputy Commissioner, Cachar in 1955.

From the list it will appear that the transfers of district officers were done as follows:—in 1955—5, in 1954—2, in 1953—3 and in 1952—1. This does not show that there is frequent transfer of District Magistrates. When we feel it essentially necessary in the interest of public service we cannot but transfer them and at the same time, we cannot withhold promotion, *e.g.*, when Mr. Kidwai was promoted as Commissioner, we had to transfer another officer to fill the post of Secretary, Relief and Rehabilitation which he was holding.

So also is the case with the Heads of Departments. Perhaps, hon. Members are aware that the post of Inspector General of Police is continually being held by Shri Kumud Chaudhury for several years. So also is the case with the Director of Agriculture, which post Mr. Handique has been holding for many years now. Mr. Bhuyan, the present Director of Public Instruction, had to take over from the retiring incumbent in 1955, as when retirement is due we cannot but change hands. Mr. Jacob is the Conservator of Forests, he was holding the post of Junior Conservator and when Mr. Stracey had to go away to a post in the Central Government, Mr. Jacob had to be promoted as he acquired fair knowledge of the department and he is the senior-most man in the department. Mr. Bhattacharyya has been holding the post of Director of Land Records for many years. Mr. Bidhu Chaudhury, who was the Additional Chief Engineer, had to be promoted as Chief Engineer and Secretary. Mr. Barooah, the Director of Industries and Registrar of Co-operative Societies, is in-charge of this Department for some years. The Chief Electrical Adviser, Mr. Goswami, has been in-charge of the Department for many years now. So also is the case of Mr. Banerji, Chief Inspector of Boilers. When the Director of Health Services, Dr. Saikia, retired after having two years of extension, Dr. Bardoloi had to be appointed. Mr. Pakyntein was promoted as Excise Commissioner as Mr. Saleh had to be promoted as Commissioner and afterwards as Chief Secretary. Secretary and Director of Supply, Mr. Sen was brought in since there was a vacancy caused by the promotion of Mr. Kidwai as Commissioner.

Government do not transfer these officers unless there is sufficient reason for their transfer. I think, my Friend, Mr. Khongphai, is given a wrong impression by somebody. If he would have known all these facts, he would not have come with these Cut Motions. Under the circumstances, I hope, he will withdraw his Motions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you withdraw your Motions?

Mr. A. S. KHONGPHAI: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motions.

(The Cut Motions were, by the leave of the House, withdrawn).

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.1,31,06,300 (Rupees one crore, thirty-one lakhs, six thousand and three hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration".

(The Motion was adopted).

GRANT No. 44

"63—B.—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS NATIONAL EXTENSION SERVICE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT WORKS

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister :) Mr. Speaker, Sir on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,55,37,200 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "63-B—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works."

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.1,55,37,200 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "63-B—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works".

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,55,37,200 under Grant No.44, Major head—63-B—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works, at page 474 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,55,37,200 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, my purpose in moving this Cut Motion is to bring only a few points for discussion. It is now several years that this community development work has been going on in our State and it is time now to make an assessment of the progress made and also to find out the faults or defects therein so that these can be removed and work can be

accelerated. The Planning Commission had laid much stress on this subject and they have given certain cautions also and certain directions as to how matters should be proceeded with. In the Report of the Planning Commission it was said that while the official machinery is to guide, the responsibility for improving their condition must rest with the people themselves. That is to say, in undertaking or proceeding with Community Development Projects, the first and foremost thing necessary is the initiative of the people there. Now, community work is not a new thing in our country; in the past also from time immemorial this community work continued—there are village tanks and village roads and even there are roads which were constructed not only by all the people of the village but by several villages together. Now, this new scheme as far as I understand, sought to introduce new and more scientific methods in keeping with the experience gathered by the people through the ages. Unfortunately, due to dearth of experienced and properly trained personnel at the beginning there were officers appointed for the purpose who have very little idea of the work and many people also have to be appointed who had previously no experience of leading the masses. Sir, to lead the mass people is not only an art but also a science. These officers before appointment could not be trained. I do not lay all the blame on the officers for the defects that appeared up till now but giving them their due for whatever they have done, we have seen that in spite of the experience for several years past the main purpose on which the Planning Commission had laid so much stress, that is, the initiative of the people has not been geared up to the desired extent. Generally, when the Project Officers or some other, even when Village Level Workers go to the rural areas, the people there have not yet been accustomed to consider them as their natural leaders or as their friends, philosophers and guides. They think them only as officers or people sent by the Government for doing certain work. That is to say, the important task of bridging the gulf between the Government and the people which was invested in these officers has not been fully implemented. There are certain reasons for this and that is what I am driving at. Some of these officers in spite of their inexperience have got some sort of complex. They do not value and properly understand the richness of the experience of the people gathered for generations together and therefore, the suggestions of the people, the criticisms of the people are not given due weight. I do not say that is a universal feature, but in many areas that is what is happening. I am going to give some concrete instances.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya, will it not be better if Mr. Mookerjee also move his Motion as it relates to the same subject?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACARYYA: I have no objection if I am allowed to speak on it also.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, you can do so. Now, Mr. Mookerjee.

GRANT No.45

“63-B—I.—Community Development Project, National Extension Service and Local Development Works.”

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Sir, it is a different thing altogether, but if you like I will move it.

Now, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.29,00,000 (Rupees twenty-nine lakhs), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1957, for the administration of the head “36-B—I.—Community Development Project, National Extension Service and Local Development Works”.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.29,00,000 (Rupees twenty-nine lakhs), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1957, for the administration of the head “63-B—I.—Community Development Project, National Extension Service and Local Development Works”.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I think in view of the fact that I put my Cut Motion as a measure to raise general discussion I may speak now.

As I said, Sir, these officers have only some training and theoretical knowledge. But that theoretical knowledge itself is not sufficient, and they will have the benefit if they would come and work with the people of the locality under their advice which is from practical experience. For example, when I visited Silchar last year, probably in the month of *Kartik* I was glad to see the good work done in the Community Project area of Dharmanagar and Mashimpur. There I found one bridge was being built. That bridge is between Dharmanagar and Mashimpur. When that bridge was being constructed, some labourers who worked on the bridge suggested to the

overseer that the level was not sufficiently high. They told him that when rain would come, the bridge would be submerged. But the overseer did not pay heed to their suggestion and constructed the bridge according to the level of height suggested by him. What happened to the bridge? In the month of Kartik there was untimely flood due to rain, and not only the bridge had been submerged but the road itself was also submerged in the portion where the bridge was constructed. If the officers would have respected the local advice given by the labourers then the bridge would not have been submerged as they had shown a higher level where the bridge should have been constructed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya there are certain rules under which the bridge had to be constructed. The difficulties are there and legacies are there.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, my only wish is that these legacies which are not helpful to us should go away, more specially when we are taking a new outlook, these legacies should go away. How to construct a bridge and what should be the level of height of the bridge and what steps should be taken, these are highly technical matters. But, Sir, before we produced these Engineers and before the Western Engineers came to our Country, our people used to construct and build bridges, and they also knew how to make a road and where to make a bridge. For example, Gohain-Kamala Road runs east to west without making any flood. But now-a-days if we construct an east-west road it accentuates floods and itself becomes submerged. So without any disrespect and without any insinuation to the Engineers and engineering, I think we should respect common peoples experience which they have gathered from their practical experience and we should successfully utilise it in the Community Project Areas.

Mr. SPEAKER: But in Dibrugarh it belied.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Because, Sir, our people have no experience of making dykes. We have not had to fight with the Brahmaputra. At that time big towns like Dibrugarh were not grown. So, Sir, bigger projects do not cover this.

So far as the Community Project areas are concerned they are in the rural areas. In the rural areas we have to deal with small problems. These Project Officers are to run

in smaller spheres ; we have seen that these Project Officers and the Community Development Officers prove successful and become popular when they show proper respect to the people of the area in which they work. The officers should not boss over the people so that the people cannot say that this man is actually dictating the people and this man is actually bossing over the people. The people should feel that he is only a helping hand and that they should get greater initiative from him. So we should respect their experience. In my own Constituency I have seen that the people are co-operating in community development works where there are different experience and different response from different sections of the people. It is unfortunate that such wrong things happened in so good a project like Dharmanagar. There is another instance. There is a school and that school is at Srikona. When the school building was being constructed the Project Officer asked the villagers to construct the school in a lower level. The villagers suggested that when floods would come, the school building would be submerged. But the Project Officer did not hear to their suggestion and constructed the school in the site selected by him in a lower level. When actually that untimely flood came, it submerged the floor of the school building and a part of the money that was spent on it had been wasted. I am reported that a fishery was being constructed in Ramkrishnanagar area. The contract was assigned to a contractor who hailed from Hailakandi. But after removing some water hyacinth he went away and the work had to be re-started. Now there is going on a race between rains and man. If the fishery would have been started earlier as suggested by the villagers then this race between rains and man would not have been there. As I have already stated, without imputing any motive to any of our officers, I should like to say that the officers should respect the experience of the people of the locality specially in the Community Development Project areas and N. E. S. Blocks.

Now, Sir, I come to another instance about the Project Executive Officer at Majuli Project Area. Perhaps it may be known to the hon. Members that there are certain allegations against him. He had given Rs.150.

Mr. SPEAKER: That matter is now subjudice.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: This officer somehow or other became unpopular in Salmara and Kamalabari.

I understand these two Congress Committees of Salmara Mauza and Kakilamukh Mauza sent representations to the Government to the effect that this Project Officer should be transferred. On 29th October, 1955 there was a meeting held at Gejeragaon, where the All Assam Miri Sannelan passed a resolution to the same effect. On 13th June, 1955 the Subdivisional Project Advisory Committee is alleged to have passed a resolution to the effect that the question should be examined.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: The Advisory Committee did not do that. I am one of the Members of the Committee.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: It is also alleged that the Project Executive Officer used the Sarkari vehicle for private purposes even when he was on leave for which even the Officer-in charge of the Mazuli thana had to send a report to the Deputy Commissioner. Now, when all these things are there, when the major section of population did not like the officer, it may be that he could not cope with the situation prevailing there—then what was the harm in transferring him to some other place? That does not necessarily mean that there is any blot on his service. The Community Development Officer is expected to get co-operation from the people of that area. If he fails to do so, it is better in the interest of the work itself to transfer him from that area. Further, it should be noted that in a predominantly tribal area if a tribal officer is posted, he will be in a better position to understand the tribal feeling.

Now, with regard to the Demand made by the Supply Minister, I have got only one word to say. At the time of giving share of money in the Projects, where some share is given from the Government and some share is obtained from the local people, the share that is given from the Government should be given in time. We find that the money is always sent very late. If a road is to be constructed, if a tank is to be dug, the money should be given early *i. e.*, before the rains set in so that these may be constructed in time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.1,55,37,200 under Grant No.44, Major head—63-B.—Community Development Projects National Extension Service and Local Development Works, at page 474 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1 *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,55,37,200, do stand reduced by Re.1.

Again the motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.29,00,000 under Grant No.45, Major head—63-B—1—Community Development Project, National Extension Service and Local Development Works, at page 512 of the Budget, be reduced by Re 1 i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.29,00,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোব বন্ধু..... ।

Mr. SPEAKER: একমিনিট সময় মাত্র দিচ্ছেঁ ।

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বিবেচনীদলৰ সদস্য শ্ৰীযুত গৌৰীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্যই আজি এই সদনত যিটো কৰ্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে মই তাৰ বিবেচনীতা কৰিছোঁ । তেখেতৰ কৰ্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটো সম্পৰ্কে যিখিনি আলোচনা কৰিছে মই তাৰ গোটেই খিনিতে অংশ গ্ৰহণ নকৰিম । মাত্ৰ আমাৰ জিলা সম্পৰ্কীয় 'মাজুলী এন, ই, এম প্লক সম্পৰ্কে যিখিনি মন্তব্য তেখেতে কৰিছে তাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে হে কম ।

বাস্তৱিকতে তেখেতৰ প্ৰতি পুতৌ হব—যে.....

Mr. SPEAKER : আচল কথাটলৈ আহক । সময় নাই ।

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH : কাৰণ তেখেতে দালজোৰা দি মাজুলী সন্দেহে কিছ মান কথা কৈছে যিবিলাক তেখেতে নিজ চকুৰে দেখানাই । তেখেতৰ কোনোবা বন্ধুৱে এখন টোকা দিছে তাকে চাই চাই হওক নাইও ক সমালোচনা কৰিছে ।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : কিবা ভুল আছে যদি কওঁক মই মানি লম ।

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH : তেখেতে কৈছে কমলাবাৰী আৰু শালমৰা মৌজা কংগ্ৰেছ কমিটিয়ে তাৰ 'প্ৰজেক্ট' অফিচাৰ জনক বদলি প্ৰস্তাৱ দিছে মই জানো যে সেই কথা ভুল । কাৰণ মৌজা কমিটিয়ে তেনে প্ৰস্তাৱ দিয়াহলে জিলা কমিটিৰ জৰিয়তে আহিল হেতেন । কাৰণ মই জিলা কংগ্ৰেছ কমিটিৰ সভাপতি । সেই কাৰণে মই কও শ্ৰীযুত ভট্টাচাৰ্য্যই অনা অভিযোগ মিছা ।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : মৌজা কমিটিৰ পৰা Directly আহিব নোৱাৰেনেকি ?

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH: মই ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই ইয়াকে কব খুজিছো যে—তেখেতে তাৰ 'প্ৰজেক্ট অফিচাৰ' জন আনপপুলাৰ' বুলি যি অভিযোগ আনিছে—সেইটো সম্পূৰ্ণ ভুল আৰু সেই প্ৰজেক্ট অফিচাৰ জনক তাত সকলোৱে ভালপায় আৰু তেওঁ বৰ ভাল কাম কৰি আহিছে । তেওঁবিলাকে যি বিলাক সংগঠনমূলক কাম কৰিছে সেই বিলাক আমাৰ মাননীয় প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীয়ে দেখি আহিছে আৰু তেওঁৰ পৰিচালনাত হৈ উঠা বাস্তৱ উপবেদি প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীয়ে মটৰ চলাই আহিছে । 'কমিউনিষ্ট পাৰ্টি'ৰ দুইটাৰিজন নে যেনেকৈ বন্ধুবৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্যক ভাল নেপায়, তেনেকৈ সেই 'অফিচাৰ' জনক বেয়া পোৱা দুইটাৰিজন নোহোৱা নহয় ।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : তেখেত আপোনাৰ relative কি জানি ?

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH : নিশ্চয় নহয় ! তেখেতে আক কৈছে. মিনি সন্মিলনেও তেখেতৰ বদলিৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ দিছে—এতিয়া শ্ৰীযুত কাৰ্কদলে সদনত নাই তেখেত থকাহলে তাৰো ভাল প্ৰত্যুত্তৰ দিলে হেঁতেন। মই, স্পষ্টকৈ জানো মিনি বাইজৰ ভিতৰতো তেখেত জনপ্ৰিয়। সকলোৱে ভাল পায়। তেখেতে ঠিকা বিষয়ৰ যিটো মৰ্কদ্মাৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে—সেইটোতো মিছাকৈয়ে তেখেতক জড়িত কৰিছে। এই অফিচাৰ জন কোনো বকমেই তাত জড়িত নাই—আছে অন্যহে।

ইয়াকে কৈ মাজুলী সম্পৰ্কীয় যিটো অভিযোগ গুৱাহাটীৰ শ্ৰীযুত গোবীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্যই দাঙি ধৰিলে তাৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিলো।

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a member of that constituency and I am also a member of the Advisory Committee there. The thing is that the Project Officer who is being criticised on the floor of the House is just like an ordinary volunteer who does his work in co-operation with the village people. I myself had been in camps with him on several occasions before and I found him to be very popular with the villagers with whom he has got to work. However, as in other place or places, there are some fractions who are against him and who probably out of jealousy of his popularity, sent some telegrams to the Chief Minister and also to the Project authority in the names of His Holiness, the Satradhikars of Auniati and Kamalabari. But when the matter was enquired into, it was found that the whole matter was entirely baseless and the persons in whose names those telegrams were sent gave out that there was no truth in the allegations whatsoever and they did not send any telegrams against this officer. With regard to the charges levelled against him, the matter is under departmental enquiry. But what I like to say in this connection is that on the strength of such false resolutions, no officer should be transferred.

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় মিনি সন্মিলনে সেই Project officer জনক বদলি কৰিব লাগে বুলি বিজলিউচন পাচ কৰিছে বুলি ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে। সেইটো আমাৰ মিনি সন্মিলনৰ working committee লৈ যোৱাই নাছিল। তাৰ কিছুমান মানুহে নিজ স্বার্থৰ কাৰণে হয়তো এনেকৰা প্ৰস্তাৱ পঠিয়াইছিল। তাত বাইজৰ ফালৰ পৰা একো নাই। (At this stage the Deputy Speaker vacate his seat and the Speaker occupied it).

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if it is assumed that I acted upon the complaint lodged by the Secretary of a certain Primary Congress Committee of the locality without sufficient enquiry, my Friend

would have found fault with me and criticised me. That is why I have been following a policy that whenever any allegation is made—there may be various reasons for making such allegations—not to take any action immediately unless the the matter is thoroughly enquired into and substantial evidence is found to justify such action.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Is it a fact that enquiry is proceeding against this officer ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Yes. That is why no immediate transfer is called for only on the ground that certain person has brought certain allegations—against this officer. Irrespective of the fact whether that person making the allegation be a Primary Congress Committee Member or an hon. Member of this House, unless and until the allegations are fully substantiated by facts and circumstances, it is the policy of the Government not to take action against any officer. Because Government must be just and impartial to all so that everyone—both the person bringing the allegation as well as the person against whom the allegations have been brought, may feel that justice is done impartially and without any bias.

As regards the administration of the Community Projects, my time being very limited, I have got to be very brief in my submission. The Administrator of Community Projects has visited the Community Development, National Extension Service Blocks in the State on a number of occasions, the latest being in December, 1955. A few remarks from his tour notes will enable us to appreciate the position with regard to these Community Development, National Extension Service Blocks better.

“It is clear that Assam has acquitted itself appreciably above the average record under this programme over India as a whole. The standard of work has been on the rise and specially in the tribal areas, the improvement has been excellent.” Now this is the estimation of the Administrator of the Community Projects of India. Besides this, I would also like to refer that in 1952-53, Assam stood first in India, in 1953-54, we stood second, in 1954-55, we stood first, and in 1955-56 we stood first. This shows that in course of the period between 195 -56 we stood first for three times and second only once among all Community Development National Extension Service Blocks in India.

The Government of India had laid down that 50 per cent of the National Extension Service Blocks allotted in any year will, on the average, be converted into Community Development Blocks depending on the progress made and the people's participation.

The first series of conversion took place with effect from 1st April 1956 and Assam was allowed to convert 8 Blocks out of the 12 National Extension Service Blocks of 1953-54 series as the average of the States performance was above that of India as a whole.

The second series of conversion will take effect from 1st April 1956 and 8 more Blocks have been allowed to be converted. This will mean that 100 per cent of the National Extension Service Blocks of 1953-54 series and 80 per cent of the National Extension Service Blocks of the 1954-55 series (*i.e.* 12 out of 12, and 4 out of 5 respectively) of Assam have been allowed to be converted into Community Development Blocks compared to the average of 50 per cent in both cases for the country as a whole.

Then another factor that is to be taken into consideration is the contribution of the people and their initiative. In fact the success of these Community Development, National Extension Service Blocks depends largely on the co-operation and voluntary work of the people themselves. That is why we have set up of large number of voluntary organisations in different places. I would just like to give an idea to the House as to the extent to which we have been able to obtain voluntary co-operation of the people. The total Government expenditure from the inception up to the end of February 1956 has been Rs. 194.8 lakhs. As against this, the people's contribution is estimated at Rs. 99.8 lakhs of which Rs. 20.9 lakhs has been cash and materials and Rs. 78.9 lakhs is the estimated monetary equivalent of voluntary labours.

This fact will make it absolutely clear how we are getting people's co-operation. That we have secured such high position in India during the last 4 years, as I have just now stated, will testify what progress we have achieved in this direction.

Under the circumstances I hope my friend Mr. Bhattacharyya will withdraw his Cut Motion.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I did not move my Motion with an intention to censure the Government. I withdraw my Motion. (The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.1,55,37,200 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "63-B.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works".

(The Motion was adopted.)

(After a pause)

The question is that a sum of Rs.29,00,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head-63-B.—I.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works".

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No. 22

"41.—Veterinary".

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister):

On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir to move that a sum of Rs. 45,93,400 (Rupees forty-five lakhs, ninty-three thousand and four hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "41.—Veterinary".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs. 45,93,400 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "41.—Veterinary".

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

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 1-30 p. m., on Friday the 23rd March, 1956.

SHILLONG :
The 6th February, 1957.

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

S. Das
12/2

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, ~~Haltiga~~ 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. Sirbhumi Publishing Co., Calcutta.
12. The Proprietor, 'Graduates Union,' Gauhati.
13. Mr. Banwarilal Jain (Book Seller), 1719/2002, Mati Katra, Agra (India).
14. Messrs. Low Book Society, 65/3, Harrison Road, Calcutta.
15. The Director, Benares Corporation, University Road, P.O. Lanka.
16. Messrs. Law Book Society, 4A, Wellington Square, Calcutta.
17. Messrs. Bodh Raj Marwah, Booksellers, Shop No.63, Pusa Colony Market, Delhi-Karol Bagh, New Delhi.
18. The Oxford Book and Stationery Co., Scindia House, New Delhi/17, Park Street, Calcutta-16.
19. Messrs Mokshada Pustakalaya, Publishers and Book Sellers, Gauhati.
20. Messrs Popular Book Depot (Regd.), Book-sellers, Publishers, etc., Lamington Road, Bombay-7.