

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 Tuesday, the 27th March, 1956.

P R E S E N T

Shri Rajendra Nath Barua, B.L., Deputy Speaker, in the Chair, the nine Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, the two Parliamentary Secretaries and sixty-two Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

The newly appointed Director of Health Services in Assam

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

48. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) The educational qualifications of Dr. U. C. Bordoloi, the newly appointed Director of Health Services ?
- (b) Whether these additional degrees or diplomas relate to Public Health ?
- (c) The administrative experience of Dr. U. C. Bordoloi and in what capacity and for what period ?

- (d) Whether it is a fact that in all other States of India the Director of Health Services possesses D. P. H. degree ?
- (e) How could he be selected and appointed as Director of Health Services without having the requisite minimum educational qualification ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that according to the advertisement published in the *Assam Gazette*, the candidates for Director of Health Services were required to possess diploma in public health and ought to have sufficient experience in Medical and Public Health administration ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that the Government after giving long trial with a non-D. P. H. personnel as D. H. S., for Assam, considered it necessary to have a Public Health degree holder as D. H. S. and with this idea it was advertised this time that the candidate must possess diploma in Public Health ?
- (h) The number of candidates who had applied for this post and the number of D. P. H. degree holders amongst them ?
- (i) Whether the Public Service Commission recommended Dr. U. C. Bordoloi alone for this post ?
- (j) If not, who were the others ?
- (k) Whether the Government approved the recommendation straight without asking the P. S. C. to recommend the name of the second candidate according to merit ?
- (l) Whether there were experts specially nominated by Government to assist the P. S. C. in proper selection of the Director of Health Services ?
- (m) (i) If so, who were they and (ii) what were their academical qualifications and administrative experiences ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

48. (a)—M. B. (Cal.), L. M. (Dublin), D. G. O. (Dublin University), D. R. C. O. G., Post-graduate course in Malariology, Karnal.

(b)—Yes, in so far as the Post-graduate course in Malariology is concerned.

(c)—Served as Civil Surgeon at Nowgong, Jorhat and Dibrugarh from 1939 to 1948. He was also a teacher in the Berry-White Medical School while posted at Dibrugarh. Officiated as Civil Surgeon and Superintendent of Jail, Sib-sagar on four occasions from 1942 to 1949. He was Assistant Surgeon, Public Health at Nowgong and Gauhati from 17th September 1933 to 19th March 1936 and also worked in the campaign against cholera at Silchar and Kamrup in 1935. Conducted Jaws survey and organised Jaws treatment at Nowgong in 1934. He was Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Assam Medical College from 1st May 1950 to 31st December 1952 and also acted as Professor for about sixth months during that period. Served as Civil Surgeon, Goalpara and Superintendent of Jail, Dhubri from 16th January 1953 to 30th January 1956.

(d)—No. Information about other States is not available but it is believed that a number of States such as Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, etc., have Directors of Health Services who do not possess any D. P. H. degree.

(e)—Yes. He has requisite minimum qualifications for the post.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—No. On the expiry of the term of the previous D. H. S., it was decided to have Director of Health Services with D. P. H., qualifications.

(h)—Twelve candidates applied for the post and out of them ten candidates possessed diploma in Public Health.

(i)—Yes. The Assam Public Service Commission considered that Dr. U. C. Bordoloi was the only candidate suitable for the post from amongst all the applicants.

(i)—Docs not arise.

(k)—Government requested the Assam Public Service Commission to recommend three names as desired in the original requisition.

(l)—Yes.

(m) (i) & (ii)—(1) Dr. Bhubaneswar Borooah, M. B.

(Cal.).

(2) Dr. R. A. Hughes, M. B. Ch B. (L. Pool.), M.R. C. S. (Eng.), F. R. C. S. (Eng.), L. R. C. P. (Lond.), D. T. M. & H. (Eng.), Senior Medical Officer, Welsh Mission Hospital, Shillong.

(3) Shri B. C. Kapur, I. A. S, Secretary to the Government of Assam, Medical Department.

Re: Rural Health and Sanitation

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

49. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government contemplate to pay more attention to Rural Health and sanitation during the Second Five Year Plan ?

(b) If so, whether Government feel the necessity of appointing a person as head of the Health Services with Public Health degree and sufficient administrative experience ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

49. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Not at present as one has already been appointed as head of Health Services.

The Assam Adoption of Standard Weights Act, 1955

Maulavi MUHAMMAD IDRIS asked :

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

- (a) Why the Assam Adoption of Standard Weights Act, 1955 which received Governor's assent in June, 1955 has not so long been enforced ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that the jute growers have been put to great hardships and losses for delay in enforcement of the said Act ?
- (c) What will be the exact date when the said Act is going to be enforced ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

50. (a)—The Assam Adoption of Standard Weights Act, 1955 could not be enforced in this State in pursuance of the directive of the Government of India not to proceed with any Act or Legislation on weights and measures till the enactment of a new Central Act by them.

(b)—May be so.

(c)—There is no chance of giving early effect to this Act.

Amount of money allotted for Minor Irrigation and Embankments in the Gauhati Subdivision during 1955-56.

Shri RADHA CHARAN CHOUDHURY asked :

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

- (a) What is the amount of money allotted for minor Irrigation and Embankments in the Gauhati Subdivision during 1955-56 ?
- (b) What is the amount of money allotted for Chaygaon Circle for the purpose ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

51. (a)—The amount allotted for Irrigation works in the Gauhati Subdivision during the year 1955-56 is Rs.2,85,000.

(b)—The amount allotted for Chaygaon Circle during the year 1955-56 is Rs.12,075.

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY : With regard to (b), Sir, in view of the paucity of allotment for Chaygaon Circle, will the Minister please see that the allotment is raised next year ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) : The amount is not distributed circle-wise, Sir. The allotment under this scheme mainly depends on the co-operation of the people because 50 per cent on the expenditure is to be borne by the local people.

Village Key Centre in Assam

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS asked :

52. Will the Minister-in-charge of Veterinary be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Village Key Centres in Assam ?
- (b) Whether these centres are in working condition ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that in some centres there are no doctors and as such the properties and implements remain idle ?

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR (Minister) replied .

52. (a)—Ten.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No. But it is a fact that till last January Veterinary Assistant Surgeons could not be posted in some of the centres due to dearth of Veterinary graduates.

Re: Village Key Centres-cum-Medicine Sections

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS asked :

53. Will the Minister-in-charge of Veterinary be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that there are some Village Key Centres-cum-Medicine Sections ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to attach Medicine Section also with the Village Key Centres ?
- (c) Why there have been exceptions in some cases ?

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR (Minister) replied :

53. (a)—No.

(b)—The matter will receive consideration of Government.

(c)—Does not arise.

Umtru Hydro Electric Project

Shri RADHA CHARAN CHOUDHURY asked:

54. Will the Minister-in-charge of Electricity be pleased to state—

(a) When the Umtru Hydro Electricity Project is expected to function ?

(b) Whether the project will give light on the Gauhati-Goalpara line upto Dhupdhara ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

54. (a)—The project is expected to function early in 1957.

(b)—The project is designed to give light in Gauhati and its surrounding areas, covering about 1000 sq. miles. On the Gauhati-Goalpara line the distribution is at present being taken upto Palasbari only.

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY: With regard to (b), Sir, will the Minister be pleased to extend the benefit of this line upto Chaygaon, if not upto Dhupdhara ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): I cannot say that now, Sir.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Has anything been done with regard to the Kulsi Project, Sir ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): That question does not arise in this connection.

Employment Exchanges in Assam

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA asked :

55. (a) Will the Minister-in-charge of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Employment Exchanges are being taken over by the State Government with effect from April 1, next ?

(b) If so, what will be the approximate yearly cost involved in maintaining these Exchanges and the reasons for taking over the same by the State Government ?

(c) Is Government aware that the State Government in Bombay and East Punjab are against retaining these exchanges ?

(d) Whether this Government consulted either the Legislature or the public opinion as to whether the Exchanges are to be taken over by the State Government or not ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) replied :

55. (a)—Yes. Subject to the finalisation of the details.

(b)—The total yearly cost involved at present is Rs.1,35,000 approximately; of which 40 per cent of the cost, i.e., about 57,000 per year is the share of this State Government. The Government of India decided to transfer the day-to-day administration of the Employment Exchange in accordance with the recommendations of the Shiva Rao Committee and in consultation with the State Government in the interests of better efficiency.

(c)—No. In the 12th Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference it was unanimously decided to transfer administration of Employment Exchanges from Central to State Governments and these Governments expressed opinion in favour of retention.

(d)—No. The transfer of administration was decided by Government of India in consultation with State Governments on the recommendations of Shiva Rao Committee set up by them on an All-India basis. The question of consulting Legislature or eliciting public opinion does not arise.

Allotment of Sarkari Land in Sibsagar Subdivision**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA** asked :

56. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(a) How many landless peasants have been allotted Sarkari land in Sibsagar Subdivision since 1947 till date ?

(b) How many people were allotted Sarkari land in the Sibsagar Subdivision in the year 1954-55 ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

56. (a)—No figures from 1947 to June 1949 are available. From July 1949 to December 1955 about 19,460 landless families (including those with uneconomic holdings) of peasants have been allotted lands in Sibsagar Subdivision.

(b)—1,527 families.

Tea Estates in Assam**Shri RAMPRASAD CHAUBEY** asked :

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

(a) Whether Government are aware that a large number of tea estates in Assam are changing hands rapidly ?

(b) What are their numbers that changed hands in 1954 and 1955 ?

(c) Whether Government are aware that these change of hands are affecting seriously conditions of employment of workmen in those tea estates ?

(d) What step or steps do the Government propose to take to safeguard the interest of workmen in those tea estates ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister)
replied :

57. (a)—Yes.

(b)—26.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Government have been considering the question of introducing a Bill to protect the conditions of employment of a worker consequent on the change of hands of a tea garden, but in view of the statutory provisions of the Central Act, *viz.*, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1953 which has legalised retrenchment on payment of compensation for it, Government are now examining the legal implication of the State Bill *vis-a-vis* the Central Act.

Scarcity of Corrugated Iron Sheets in Gauhati Subdivision

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

58. Will the Supply Minister be pleased to state—

(a) How many petitions for allotment of Corrugated Iron Sheets are pending on the Gauhati Subdivision ?

(b) What is the total quantity of stock of Corrugated Iron Sheets available as against the said demand ?

59. Will the Supply Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Supply Advisory Board, Gauhati which met on 21st January 1956 had refused to make allotment of Corrugated Iron Sheets due to meagre stock of Corrugated Iron Sheets as against a huge number of applicants ?

(b) Whether the said Supply Advisory Committee urged upon the Government for supply of adequate quantity of Corrugated Iron Sheets ?

(c) Whether the Government has acceded to the said request of the said Committee ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) replied :

58. (a)—2,209 petitions against a total demand of 11,878 bundles till 16th March, 1956.

(b)—875 bundles till 16th March, 1956.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Has Government taken appropriate steps to improve the stock position for meeting the requirements ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): It is a continuous process, Sir. Government is trying not only to improve the stock position at Gauhati, but throughout the State, as it will be evident from the reply given to question 59(c). Not only are we trying to expedite despatch of our regular quota, but in the course of the last few months I could manage to get two *ad hoc* quotas also. But due to the scarcity of stock with the producers on account of various reasons, it has not been possible to do more. But, as I said, Sir, it is a continuous process and I am always trying to increase the quota of the State.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: When was this *ad hoc* allotment received ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): We received two allotments, the last one in January and the previous one just after the flood last year, most probably in August.

59. (a) & (b)—Yes.

(c)—The question of acceding to the request does not arise. As the supply of adequate quantity of Corrugated Iron Sheets does not lie in the hands of this Government, Government have been trying their utmost to get as much Corrugated Iron Sheets as possible, but owing to very difficult supply position Government of India have not been able to make available the quota of Corrugated Iron Sheets according to our demands. I personally took up the matter with the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta and managed to secure an *ad hoc* quota of 2,000 tons for flood relief and a special *ad hoc* quota of 1,000 tons from Calcutta Controlled Stockists in respect of the entire State and necessary allocations have been made to different Subdivisions including Gauhati. All possible steps are being taken to see that larger allocations are received from the Government of India and also that quantities allotted are despatched as promptly as possible.

Auditing of the Accounts of Local Bodies**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** asked :

60. Will the Minister in-charge of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether auditing of the accounts of Local Bodies is done annually ?
- (b) If not, why not ?
- (c) Whether there is any arrear so far such auditing is concerned ?
- (d) If so, what is the amount of the same ?
- (e) If the answer to question (c) above is in the affirmative, what steps are being taken to clear this accumulation and arrear ?

(f) What amount of embezzlement has already been detected in the auditing of the accounts of Local Bodies (Figures to be given year by year from 1945 upto date and district by district) ?

(g) Whether shortage of staff in audit Department is responsible for such embezzlement ?

Shri MOTI RAM BORA (Minister) replied :

60. (a)—Yes, as far as practicable.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The number of arrears of audit as it stood on 15th March 1956 is 6,939.

(e) It is proposed to appoint more audit staff to cope with the increasing volume of work and to clear the accumulated arrears.

(f)—The amounts involved in embezzlements detected from the year 1947-48 have been detailed in the Statement 3, which is placed on the Library Table. The amounts for the years 1945-46 and 1946-47 could not be given as the old records are not immediately available and it would take time to collect the same from old records.

(g)—It may be due to various reasons of which shortage of staff may be one.

Regarding damage done by cyclone and fire in certain parts of Assam

Shri DEBESWAR RAJKHOWA: On a point of information, Sir, may I know whether Government have received any reports regarding the recent cyclone which swept over the various parts of the State ? If you allow me, I would like to speak a few words.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

Shri DEBESWAR RAJKHOWA: On the 22nd March last, a serious cyclone swept over various parts of Assam. It affected the Kamrup district, Nowgong district and some parts of Sibsagar district, particularly Golaghat and also Mangaldai. I have got information from various friends as well as there are reports in the Press that many houses collapsed and some people died due to the cyclone. If you allow me I can read a report from the *Assam Tribune*.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not think it is necessary. Your point is whether Government has received any information and what steps are being taken to render relief to the affected people.

Shri DEBESWAR RAJKHOWA: At Golaghat four persons were killed due to collapse of houses. I want to know whether Government have got any information from the affected places and whether relief is being rushed there by way of loans and grants. Then, Sir, for the last one year there is acute scarcity of Corrugated Iron Sheets at Golaghat. If Government intend to help the homeless people, Corrugated Iron Sheets should be immediately made available in the cyclone-affected areas.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, though I have been taken almost by surprise I shall try to give some information. As a matter of fact, I have not yet got detailed reports from the affected places, but I am getting general information from different parts of Assam that a serious cyclone swept over a greater part of our State. As a result, there have been several deaths, probably numbering about 10 in all, four in Nowgong, one at North Lakhimpur and others in some other places. The loss and damage to property are very severe and in most places a very large number of houses were swept away. In some places, the high school buildings, hostel buildings, Middle English, Middle Vernacular

and Lower Primary school buildings were also blown down. I am collecting information. I am sorry for this and we express our sympathy to the people who have suffered. I have directed our district and subdivisional officers to take all possible measures, including relief, where necessary. As I said, I am collecting information and as soon as detailed information is received, some definite and regular steps will be taken to relieve the distress.

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI: Do Government know that several houses in the Sibsagar bazar have been gutted by fire ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Not only in Sibsagar, but also in Jorhat, Cachar and other places. The Lakhipur Bazar in the Cachar district has been wholly burnt down. I am collecting information from these places about the extent of damage caused by the fire and the losses sustained by our people.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

GRANT No.5.

"10.—FORESTS"

(Further Discussion on Grant No. 5)

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I proceed further with my reply to the points raised by my Friends, Mr. Bhattacharyya and Mr. Goswami, in addition to the points to which I have already replied, I would like to say that the other day while I was speaking from memory, I quoted the cost of collection of resin as was given in the original scheme to be Rs. 33 or Rs. 34 per maund, but I would like to correct this now as it appears from the records that the cost of collection was estimated to be Rs.12 per maund.

Sir, the other day I have already said that this scheme was not originated by me and also I have said that we have not sold turpentine oil at annas 0-15-6 per pound, the price of which as quoted by Mr. Bhattacharyya was at that time Rs. 60 per gallon. I will prove by facts and figures that he is not correct and I will come to that item subsequently.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Which is not correct?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Your statement.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Here is the cash memo (showing the paper in his hand), 6 annas per ounce. If the calculation is made it will come to Rs.60 per gallon.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): That is quite different. If a seer of milk is sold by a certain individual at his house, it may fetch a price of 8 annas to 10 annas per seer, but if it is sold at the market in retail, it may fetch even Re. 1 per seer. Whether we are to take the price at which the milk is sold at this house or the price at which the milk is sold in retail in the market ?

The Resin Distillation Scheme was under the First Five-Year Plan and was operated at Shillong and exclusively financed by the State Government and it was running since 1950. I took charge of Forest in 1952. The broad features of the scheme were that 1 lakh pine trees would be tapped and 3 lakh lbs. of resin collected at 3 lbs. per channel. This would produce 2,500 maunds of resin and 7,500 gallons of turpentine oil. A factory would be constructed with a rated capacity of 2,000 lbs. per day at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 68,000, but initially this would process only 1,000 lbs. per day. The resin would be sold at Rs.30 per maund and the turpentine oil at Rs. 4 per gallon and the gross profit would be Rs.45,000 on a recurring expenditure of Rs.60,000 annually.

The operation of this scheme was audited by the Accountant General for the account up to 31st March 1954. As per account of the Accountant General, Assam, a gross and net loss amounting to Rs. 1,00,672-8-0 and Rs. 1,31,136-2-0 respectively have already been incurred up to 31st March 1954. Sir, I shall read the relevant portions of the audit report.

"In preparing the above account an attempt was made to make best use of the available records to arrive at a correct estimate of gross and net loss amounting to Rs.1,00,672-8-0 and Rs.1,31,136-12-0 respectively. These losses will be increased by Rs.18,195-6-0 if the stock of the finished products is valued at Rs.4 per gallon of turpentine and Rs.25 per maund of resin, as shown in the statement of anticipated income. If

for the sale of these stocks, they are required to be exported to Calcutta or other markets outside the State, it is most likely that the stock will not fetch more than the above mentioned *ex-factory* sale price.

According to the above accounts the cost of collection of per maund of resin comes to Rs.48-1-0 per maund and the cost of processing comes to Rs.13-7-0 per maund against Rs.12 and Rs.2 respectively. Such abnormal difference between the actuals and the estimates requires thorough scrutiny. From page 43 of the pamphlet it appears that in the Nainital Division of Uttar Pradesh the cost of the collection of raw resin during 1949-50 was Rs.10-11-0 only per maund. If the cost of the collection as calculated and shown in the aforesaid accounts is correct, it is not clear how it can be more than four times of the cost of collection in Uttar Pradesh. The results of the scrutiny may please be communicated to Audit.

In the estimate the percentages of outturn of turpentine and resin were taken as 20 per cent and 75 per cent respectively whereas they were 16 per cent and 50 per cent only during 1952-53 and 14 per cent and 63 per cent during 1953-54. So abnormally low outturn also requires investigation.

It was expected that every tree with one channel each would yield 4 lbs. of raw resin each working season. Even in the 3rd year of operation, *i.e.*, in 1953-54 it appeared that 77,100 channels yielded 1,17,313 lbs. of resin. Therefore the yield of each channel was 1.5 lbs. only in place of original estimate of 4 lbs. per channel.

Such abnormal variations between estimates on the basis of which Government accorded their approval to the establishment of the factory and actual results of operation in respect of amount of expenditure, yield of resin and outturn of finished products clearly indicate that the estimates were not correctly made on properly collected data".

Sir, when this audit note was sent to us and when Government was asked to explain the working of this scheme on the basis of the audit report, Government had to make further investigations into the working of this scheme. As indicated in the audit report we had to examine ways and means how to curtail the expenditure in running this scheme.

"In 1954-55, the utmost economy in the collection of crude resin and in running the Factory has been exercised but even then, an expenditure of Rs.47,197 has been incurred for collection of the crude resin of 1,19,766 lbs. or approximately 1,500 maunds, while Factory expenditure has amounted to Rs.19,858. Therefore, the cost of collection of crude resin has amounted to over Rs.31 per maund. This itself is more than the value of the finished product. On the basis of collection and processing of 1,500 maunds of crude resin at a cost of Rs.67,055 incurred in 1954-55, the *ex-factory* cost of resin and turpentine would be Rs.50 per maund, *i.e.*, Rs. 50 per maund for resin and Rs.5 per gallon for turpentine, which is much higher than the sale price".

"To increase the collection of resin at a lower cost, a system of bonus for collection over a fixed quantum and a deduction for collection below the quantum was introduced in the current collection season and has been enforced rigorously. The result has been that a few persons earn the bonus and those who have to pay penalty leave as soon as the penalty is imposed and a fresh batch of labour to be trained afresh. Hence this system may also be considered to be a failure. The quantum was based on collection of resin of 2 lbs. per channel on the average but this has not so far been worked upto by the majority of the workers. But even this quantum is not anywhere near the economic output per channel".

"Another method known to science for obtaining higher yield of resin is what is known as the Acid stimulation method; to test the result of this method (as all species do not respond equally well to acid treatment) a special experiment was conducted to see if increase yield could be obtained by treating the channels with acid. This work was entrusted to the Silviculturist; after experiment on 294 trees with varying strength of acid during the period from 8th March 1955 to 3rd May 1955 (the optimum period for resin exudation), he has reported that there is an average increased output of 8.2 per cent while the cost has increased by 42.5 per cent. Therefore, this method is not likely to give an appreciably increased output at a lower and the experiment therefore may be taken as a failure. This experiment was undertaken on the suggestion of the F. A. O., Expert to the Chief Minister. On being apprised of the results, he was also of the opinion that the result does not justify any hope of success with this method."

It would thus appear that all possible attempts have been made to obtain higher yields of resin at lower cost but without success and hence continuance of the Scheme can only mean continual yearly loss.

In the circumstances, as I have already said, there was no alternative for the Minister-in-charge than to advise the Cabinet for the closure of the factory. After due examination and consideration, the Cabinet came to the decision for the closure of this factory.

Sir, the second point about which Mr. Bhattacharyya said the other day was that Government instead of selling the resin to Messrs. Assam Chemical, Gauhati at Rs.27 per maund have sold at Rs.12-8-0 per maund to Messrs. Kanoria of Calcutta. I would like to state for the information of the House that this is not a fact. The Assam Chemical offered only Rs.25 per maund on credit to be delivered at Gauhati. This offer was obtained by our Special Officer who was sent to secure orders and to examine what price could be obtained in Assam and what quantity of the finished products both in respect of resin as well as turpentine can be consumed in Assam. While he went from shop to shop to ascertain the demands of the State he went to this Assam Chemical at Gauhati and received a supply order to the following effect:—

“To the Special Officer, Forest Industries, Government of Assam,—Dear Sir, please supply us the following at your earliest convenience and issue your bill for payment—42 bags of black resin containing 2 maunds each at Rs. 25 delivered at Gauhati”. Sir, what happened to this offer made by the Chemical Company of Gauhati? After this order was obtained by the Special Officer, that firm was contacted by the Forest Utilisation Officer. The firm did not agree to buy at the original rate and quoted a fresh offer—I shall read that also: ‘To the Forest Utilisation Officer, Shillong—Dear Sir, we understand from a reliable source that a considerable quantity of black and white resin and oil turpentine are going to be disposed of shortly, we beg to offer ourselves as a buyer of the above items. We are in a position to purchase immediately the following quantities at the price mentioned against each:—200 maunds of black and white resin at Rs.13-8-0 per maund delivered at Gauhati’. As against this subsequent offer can my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, find any fault with Government for not disposing of the stuff to this Assam Chemical of Gauhati? Although in the original offer submitted to the Special Officer

they quoted Rs.25 per maund of black resin, they subsequently did not stick to that offer and quoted a fresh offer at Rs. 13-8-0 for all varieties of resin. Sir, I shall come to the prices received in the quotations for all varieties of resins.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : What was the date of the first offer and what was the date of the second offer?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): The date of the first offer was 21st May, 1955 and that of the second offer was 8th November 1955.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Why was not the first offer accepted when it was at Rs.25 per maund?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): I shall explain. Now, Sir, for all varieties of resins the prices quoted by the highest tenderer was Rs.23-8-0 per maund for the first grade, Rs.20 per maund for the second grade and Rs.16-4-0 for the third grade. Now, this Assam Chemical wanted all grades of resins at Rs.13-8-0 per maund delivered at Gauhati. I have been asked by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, why the offer made by this Chemical Company as per their letter, dated 21st May 1955, was not accepted? Sir, we have not refused this offer. Nobody can say that Government has refused this offer submitted to the Special Officer. The fact is that, after the Company submitted this offer to the Special Officer, their representative discussed further with the Department and they did not agree to buy at the original quotations and quoted this latest offer.

Now, Sir, for all this stock of resin that was lying at Shillong, tenders were called for in February—the latest date for submission of tender was 28th February. When these tenders were called for, advertisements were circulated in Assam and also in Calcutta through the *Assam Tribune*, the *Assam Gazette* and the *Statesman*. This party, namely the Assam Chemical of Gauhati, did not submit any tender. Government called for tenders in February, they received all tenders in March and completed all transactions in March. Immediately after completion of this transactions the Special Officer went to this firm who gave the previous offer, but they did not stick to the offer originally made. So, Sir, there is no question of refusal by Government to sell the resin to this party who offered

Rs. 25 only for a small quantity and that too on credit, because, as I have already said, the party did not stick to that offer, and so to sell it to the highest tenderer at Rs.13-8-0 is not wrong on the part of Government and therefore, on that score, Mr. Bhattacharyya cannot blame me or the Government.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: What was the average price received from these tenderers?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): I leave it to the hon. Member, Sir, to calculate; I have given the rates for the first grade, second grade and the third grade already.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Will the average come to Rs. 12-8-0?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): I have given you the figures, please calculate it. Sir, the resin that was sold at Shillong at Rs.12-8-0 per maund is the black resin and not the other good quality. If Mr. Bhattacharyya is under the impression that resin of all grades were sold by Government to Shri Kanoria at Rs. 12-8-0 at Shillong then he is wrong.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Government received an offer at Rs.25 per maund—why was that not sold and it was sold at Rs.12-8-0 instead?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): I have already said, Sir, that the party did not stick to their offer.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: For one year whether any information was sent by the Forest Department?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): The period between the two offers is not one year. It will be about five months only. The Firm also did not submit any tender when the tenders were called for and the offer made by the party subsequent to the receipt of tenders called for was also not stuck too.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Because our factory was closed. We were in a tight corner.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): No, Sir. For the information of the House and for the information of Mr. Bhattacharyya, I would like to say that the Government accepted

the rate by Shri Kanoria which was the highest for the stock advertised. There are surplus stocks even now. We have authorised the department to sell the stock, which was left locally to anyone at prices above the rate quoted in the tenders. Therefore, I should say that no party was refused on any ground, if it was prepared to pay in cash according to the terms of the Government.

Then the second point which has been raised by Mr. Bhattacharyya is that we have sold naked turpentine in Shillong at As. -/15/6 per gallon, whereas the price was then Rs. 60 per gallon. Sir, I do not think we can compare the price of any article sold in retail with that of sold on wholesale basis.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: At any rate, Sir, what is the price received by the Government for one gallon of turpentine from Mr. Kanoria?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Sir, I have already placed all facts before this House. It is for the hon. Member to find out the rate per gallon.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: What is the price per gallon at Gauhati?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Rupees 1-4-0 per gallon at Gauhati.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: What is the price at Shillong per gallon?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): The price at Shillong per gallon is As. -/15/6. If the hon. Member, Mr. Bhattacharyya, takes into consideration the freight charge which is to be paid for carrying turpentine from the factory at Shillong to Gauhati and the consequent loss on transit, then the price of As. -/15/6 is much better than the price which is paid at the rate of Rs. 1-4-0 per gallon at Gauhati.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: May I know the *ex-factory* price at which turpentine is sold to the merchants to be sold in the open market?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: There may be abnormal difference.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): If I quote the *ex-factory* price of a resin factory for turpentine situated in other States, then the House will appreciate whether my statement, or the statement made by Mr. Bhattacharyya should be accepted.

There is another factory in Jammu and Kashmir. The *ex-factory* price of turpentine in that factory ranges from Re.1 to Rs.1-12-0 per gallon. Here in Assam our *ex-factory* price of turpentine per gallon ranges from As. -/15/6 to Rs.3-8-0. If Mr. Bhattacharyya compares the price of our turpentine, the *ex-factory* price which ranges from As. -/15/6 to Rs.3-8-0 per gallon, with that of the factory situated in Jammu and Kashmir, which has been running for years together and which has got good market facilities, then he can judge whether his statement is correct. We are to see what is the prevailing price of the article. We must not compare the retail prices of an article with that of the wholesale price. Therefore, Sir, I submit now that he cannot accuse the Government for selling turpentine on the average price of As. -/15/6 per gallon as *ex-factory* price in Shillong.

Sir, in addition to this, my hon. Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, wanted to know from me the other day whether there was Government sanction for certain items in connection with this factory. This is a very surprising question. Even then I would like to inform him as also the House that sanction by Government was duly accorded.

Sir, he wanted to know from me whether the building constructed for the resin factory was constructed according to rules or not. For the information of the hon. Member and other Members of the House, I would like to inform that the building was constructed according to rules and that tenders were called for the purpose.

In addition to this he has also referred to the point that last year we had made some provision for the establishment of a quinine factory, and in the present Budget he has not seen any provision made for that purpose. But he raised this point in order to emphasise his own point of view that during my time some of the schemes that were taken up before had collapsed.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I crave your indulgence not to take it personally.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Sir, it is a fact that we made provisions in the current year's Budget. It is also a fact that we have not made provision in the next year's Budget for the establishment of the quinine factory. Why we have not done so, I shall explain. Sir, in March, 1955 we made provision for 1955-56 to establish a quinine factory but subsequently we got a directive from the Government of India to abandon the scheme and take resort to the destructive exploitation of the existing plantation for the following reasons. India have become self-sufficient in quinine, as a result of production of this article in two existing factories—one in Magpo in West Bengal and the other in Madras. Besides the Government of West Bengal and Madras have surplus quinine in their hands which is not saleable even outside India because of the low cost of production outside India. In consonance with the directive of the Government of India the Planning Commission also has not approved of our scheme. When the Government of India did not allow us to proceed with the scheme for the reasons stated therein and when the Planning Commission did not agree to provide us with the funds for the establishment of the quinine factory in Assam, then, Sir, there should have been no objection against the Government for not providing the funds for the construction of the quinine factory.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, last year when the funds were allotted, I want to know whether the prior approval of the Government of India was taken or not.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): The approval was there, but subsequently why it was abandoned has been explained by me, and as such there can be no question now whether once the Government of India gave the approval to the Government of Assam or not.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: This is important, Sir, because if we have in our mind that the Government of India would not approve of the scheme then we should not have incurred this expenditure.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): What expenditure have we incurred, Sir? Even though allotment was made, no money was spent. We have only spent Rs.2,200 for construction of a shed and that shed is still necessary.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Rupees 68,000 was spent.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Money was spent on Plantation Scheme. Sir, plantation is quite a different scheme. The Budget for the establishment of a quinine factory is one thing and that of plantation is another thing. The Plantation Scheme has been going on since 1942-43 and even before that.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, the clarification which I seek for is that when the money was voted by this House for the establishment of a quinine factory, naturally Government had certainly a plan on the basis of an understanding that such scheme would be given effect to, and only on such understanding the demand was voted. When the demand was made on the floor of the House everything was supposed to be ready. Now after the scheme was sanctioned, how can it be abandoned? When the scheme was abandoned, how the money was voted? All those show the lack of planning.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Sir, I have not given him way.

The place was to put up a quinine factory and so we wanted provision for it. A scheme can be abandoned if it is justified. I have explained the reasons why it was abandoned and I think we are justified and it was also beyond our control. Then my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, has put me a question to the effect that since we have decided not to start the quinine factory, then what are we proposing to do with the plantation which we have been going on since 1942-43. Sir, we are doing.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: For the supply of raw materials to others (*laughter*). The Minister has made us the backward hinterland of raw materials suppliers.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Sir, we are not going to utilise it in supplying raw materials to any other factory. We are proposing to process the bark in two factories, one in Bengal and the other in Madras, and the products of these barks will be brought to Assam. Sir, in view of what I have stated, *i.e.*, the reasons given by me for not establishing the quinine factory, my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, I hope, will see his way not to find fault with me or with the Government.

In addition to this, Sir, he has said in his initial speech that Assam which is rich in forests could be made a land of garden instead of a land of jungle. I would like to repeat what he has said—

“In this department of Forests, as I shall show later on, the rule of the jungle is going on and public money is squandered away like anything”.

This was the main emphasis of his speech.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I also read a Hindusthani couplet in this connection, Sir—

रामकी चिड़िया
रामकी खेत
जा लो चिड़िया
भरके पेट ।

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Yes, Sir, the meaning of the couplet is—All these properties belong to Ram and all the peripheries belong to Ram so the birds have got the right to fill up their belly to the full. There is no rule and regulation, so eat to your full as much as you can.

Then he further said, “it will not be possible to deal with all the items. I shall confine myself to a few. Very big promises were given to us at the very beginning of the First Five-Year Plan that there would be large scale plantation of teak, Sal and other trees, saw mills, resin tapping mills, treatment of wood, celluloid manufacture, manufacture of charcoal,” and so on.

Sir, I do not think I have ever said about starting of a saw mill by Government. I can also challenge the statement of Mr. Bhattacharyya, that I had said that Government would start manufacture of charcoal.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, some responsible officer of the Government did say so, and made certain publication to that effect.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): That is, Sir, quite a different thing. An officer might say many things, he might publish and distribute many such things.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, he is no other than the Head of the Department.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): He did not take permission of the Government to do so.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: It was printed by the Government of Assam in the Assam Government Press under the signature of the Senior Conservator of Forests, Government of Assam.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Yes, that might be so. But for things which Mr. Stracy had published without prior sanction of the Government, he cannot blame Government. Further I want to say that my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, is not justified to say that we promised many things but we have not given effect to them.. To illustrate this, he cited about the teak plantation, Khair plantation, etc. I would like to say, Sir, that if he looks into the provisions that we have made for the next year's Budget under item 10.—Forest, and also if he looks to the provisions under item—Capital Outlay for Forest Department, then he will see that we have made provisions for many schemes, including schemes which were not taken before. Secondly at present we have been surveying the resources of the State, and as a result of that survey, some people have now come forward to start a pulp factory in Assam. In view of this, neither my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, nor my Friend, Goswami, is justified to say that the Forest Department has not been working at present in the manner it should have done. In view of what I have said regarding the points raised by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, I would like to request him to withdraw his Cut Motion. I would also request him in this connection to withdraw the most uncharitable remarks made by him without knowing the real facts.

Sir, I now propose to come to the points raised by my Friend, Shri Goswami. Mr. Goswami has stated that some illegalities were detected by the Senior Conservator of Forests and he wanted to know from me the result of the investigation. With regard to this point I would inform the hon. Member that the report submitted by the Department regarding the investigation of the alleged illegalities at Doom Dooma, is still pending with the Secretary of the Department, who says that the report being a pretty long one, it will take some time to examine. As this report has not yet reached me, I am sorry, at the moment, I cannot give any further information about the enquiry.

The next point which Mr. Goswami has asked is about the transfer of the Divisional Forest Officer, Dibrugarh. He has stated that this Divisional Forest Officer, Mr. Pait, has been in Dibrugarh for more than five years. Sir, this is not a fact. He was at Dibrugarh for about four years. He also further stated that there was a proposal for transfer of this Divisional Forest Office but when the report about the illegalities were submitted by the Conservator to the Government, his transfer order was cancelled. For the information of the hon. Member I would like to say that Mr. Pait's transfer order was passed only after the alleged illegalities were reported to us and it was not cancelled. Along with the transfer of this officer, another officer had gone to take over from him. But this officer applied for four months' leave on the ground of his wife's illness for which he submitted a medical certificate.

When the certificate was produced from a Medical Officer for the operation of his wife, Government felt it desirable to grant him leave. Though he wanted 4 months' leave, Government granted him only 2 months' leave. Therefore, Sir, the information received by my Friend, Mr. Goswami, regarding the transfer order of Mr. Pait is not correct.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: On a point of information, Sir. Is it a fact that Mr. Pait, although on leave, is still occupying the bungalow of the Divisional Forest Officer and is trying his best to tamper with evidence ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Sir, we have got no information regarding the alleged tampering with evidence. It is a fact that he was occupying that bungalow not as a person having authority to occupy the same, but he was there as a guest of the present Divisional Forest Officer.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Birds of the same feather flock together (*laughter*).

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): I am very sorry that my Friend is trying to find fault with all the officers because of a certain allegation against a certain person and it will be very difficult for officers to work if it is done so.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Still he is allowed to occupy that bungalow.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): We do not know if he is still occupying the bungalow. As I said, he is there as a guest of the present Divisional Forest Officer who has got sole right of occupation fully of that bungalow. In addition Mr. Goswami has said that Government has passed order changing the jurisdiction of 3rd Conservator who has been investigating into the case. Sir, it is perhaps known to Mr. Goswami that this case was first detected by Mr. Jacob and not by Mr. Bhattacharyya and we have asked the Senior Conservator, Shri Jacob, to investigate into it and report. It is Mr. Jacob who has deputed Mr. Bhattacharyya to investigate into the case. He went there twice and all the reports are with him now. Mr. Goswami insinuated that in order to help the Divisional Forest Officer, the jurisdiction of Mr. Bhattacharyya, who has been investigating into the case, has been changed. Sir, that presumption is absolutely incorrect.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, when a particular officer has been deputed to investigate into an alleged offence, the common procedure is that till the investigation is over, it is not desirable to shift him from that responsible task. But what happen here is that by allowing Mr. Jacob to investigate into the case after he has deputed Mr. Bhattacharyya to do it, it means that Mr. Bhattacharyya has failed which is an insinuation or reflection on Mr. Bhattacharyya. I hope this is not the case. Mr. Jacob has taken over because he does not feel confident on Mr. Bhattacharyya. This is an insinuation.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Nothing should be thought of in the line. Although Mr. Bhattacharyya has been withdrawn from that circle, yet he can be deputed by the Senior Conservator of Forests to go there to investigate further into the case. The Senior Conservator is going to take over that circle because he was never in charge of that circle and without being in charge of that circle he thought he, as Senior Conservator, would not be able to administer the Department well. Perhaps, the House knows and my Friend, Mr. Goswami, also knows that we created a third post of Conservator and Mr. Bhattacharyya was appointed to that post. We had to make arrangement for distribution of jurisdiction among these three Conservators. We allowed Mr. Bhattacharyya, at the suggestion of the Senior Conservator himself, to hold charge of the Upper Assam Circle temporarily. In that particular proposal, Mr. Jacob suggested that he would come to Upper

Assam Circle to make himself familiar with the position of the Upper Assam Forests, as he was never in-charge of the Divisions of Upper Assam. Hence, it is decided that the present Senior Conservator, Mr. Jacob, should take over charge of the Eastern Circle in order to make himself familiar with the forests of the State as a whole. While submitting his proposal he said: "but in the present circumstances, it is considered inexpedient to create any dislocation by giving him the Eastern Circle". That proposal Mr. Jacob made on 28th August 1955. After some-time of these temporary arrangement, I asked him whether he would be able to take up the Eastern Circle before January last, but he said that it would be better for him to go to that Circle from the 1st of April along with the beginning of the next financial year. Therefore, I passed the following order. But this order has not yet been given effect to. As Senior Conservator, Shri Jacob, should have thorough ideas of all the Divisions of the State, but Mr. Jacob has not got proper ideas of some of the areas of Upper Assam which are included in the Eastern Circle. Most of the areas of the Eastern Circle are now coming into more prominence due to many ply-wood factories working there and the existence of many ply-wood species in those areas. In the circumstances, Shri Jacob, who is the Senior Conservator of Forests now, should become familiar with these areas as early as possible and as such he should take charge of the Eastern Circle from the beginning of the next financial year. Once I remember to have discussed this with him and in that discussion he himself suggested 1st April 1956. "Senior Conservator should be asked to see this and come up for a discussion with me as early as possible, so that whatever adjustments that are deemed necessary can be done finally. He can bring the other Conservators with him". Now, Sir, when the proposal to give to the Senior Conservator, the Upper Assam Circle was going on since a long time and when only order has been passed to give effect to that proposal from the 1st of April next, I fail to understand how any one can think of connecting the transfer of Shri Bhattacharyya from the Circle with the investigation of that case.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Only one point arises in this connection. We are not immediately concerned with the transfer of officers. All that I want to know from the Minister-in-charge is whether he appreciates the necessity of keeping the investigation in one hand instead of changing it in the midstream.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): I have already said, Sir, that we have asked the Senior Conservator to investigate the case because he originally detected it. It was the Senior Conservator who deputed Mr. Bhattacharyya there. Even now, if the Senior Conservator thinks that for further investigation Shri Bhattacharyya is to be deputed, there can be no objection even though he has been withdrawn from that place.

Then, Sir, another point raised by Mr. Goswami was with regard to some alleged irregularities committed by a contractor for the extraction of trees sanctioned for the Batadrava Sankar Mission. The facts of the case are as follows—Shri Bimala Kanta Bora, who as President had submitted a petition to me for certain cft. of timber; then he submitted another petition for some more cft. of timber; his total demand totalled about 3,300 cft. The sanctions were issued by us in two instalments as the two petitions were submitted on two occasions. The original amount that was necessary to cover these 3,300 cft. was sanctioned by Government. But before the extraction of these trees, the royalty value of timbers had been increased. When the trees were actually extracted, the Divisional Forest Officer could not give whole quantity of timber on the amount already sanctioned, and so he wrote to us that in order to give the whole quantity he wanted an additional sum of Rs.1,800, to cover 3,300 cft. of timber. We have sanctioned that amount. To extract these 3,300 cft. of timber the Divisional Forest Officer marked 110 trees on the average rate of 30 cft. per tree. As the sanction was not issued on the basis of trees, but on the basis of cft. and as it is the procedure on the part of officers to make an average estimate per tree, so for these particular quantity of timber taking into consideration 30 cft. per tree, they have marked 110 trees. That, Sir, in the course of operation, at first the best trees were felled one after the other and subsequently the outturn of some trees became surplus and these were extracted by the contractor by giving dues to the Government.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: What was the number of surplus trees?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): I cannot give the accurate figure now. Yesterday, we tried to contact the Divisional Forest Officer on the 'phone but he was not available. This morning also we tried, but could not get him. I, therefore,

cannot give the information now because it is not with me. I shall supply the information later, if the hon. Member wants it.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Only yesterday, I went there and found that about 60 trees were in excess ; only 50 were necessary.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : দিয়া গছৰ উপৰিও ৬০ ডাল গছ বেচিকৈ কাটিছে ।

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) : I don't think so, Sir. Anyhow, I shall make an enquiry about this.

Then, Sir, it was said that Government should do many welfare works. I would like to draw his attention to the fact that we have spent money this year for starting of dispensaries, construction of schools, wells, roads, etc., and for doing such welfare works. We have also provided money in the next year's Budget.

With these few words, Sir, I request my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my colleague, the present Forest Minister, made certain personal references to me at the time of replying to the charges levelled by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya. I want to say a few words by way of personal explanation. It is a fact that this scheme for a Resin Factory was initiated at the time when I held charge of Forest Department. The scheme was prepared by a Special Officer after making surveys of the pine areas in Assam. It is known to the hon. Members that in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, particularly in Shillong and Jowai, we have beautiful pine forests and the question of having a resin factory at Shillong was engaging the attention of Government for a long time. There was also a popular demand for it at the time of initiating the scheme. We could not foresee that this scheme would ultimately be a failure or it would be a losing concern. It was impossible for us to anticipate this.

Now, for this failure, I do not of course hold my colleague responsible. There are so many factors to be taken into consideration. There is the question of flow of resin and the question of labour and other factors. The factory was started in the year 1952 when I was not in-charge of the Forest

Department. I did not know what happened to this till it came up to Cabinet for a decision that this should be discontinued. The charges levelled against my Friend, by Mr. Bhattacharyya, were perhaps too severe. I hope, as requested by my colleague, Mr. Das, Mr. Bhattacharyya will see his way to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you withdraw your Cut Motion, Mr. Bhattacharyya?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : As I am not satisfied with the reply given by the Forest Minister, I am sorry, I cannot withdraw it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that the total provision of Rs.74,96,300 under Grant No.5, Major head—10.—Forests, at page 24 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.74,96,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The Motion was negatived).

(After a pause)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs. 74,96,300 (Rupees seventy-four lakhs, ninety-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—"10.—Forests."

(The Motion was adopted).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before, we take up other Cut Motions, I think, we should have a time table allotting definite time to each of the Cut Motions. I hope, you will all agree that for each Cut Motion, I will allow 10 minutes to the Mover of the Cut Motion and 5 minutes to any other hon. Member who wants to speak, and 10 minutes to the Minister to give the reply.

Now, we will take up the Demands for Grants left unfinished on 24th March and then we will take up the Demands for Grants allotted for to-day.

Grant No.48.**‘65.—A-2.—Capital Outlay on Forests’**

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 5,39,000 (Rupees five lakhs, and thirty-nine thousand), 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—“65.-A.-2.—Capital Outlay on Forests.”

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs. 5,39,000 (Rupees five lakhs, and thirty-nine thousand), 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—“65.-A.-2.—Capital Outlay on Forests”.

There is a Cut Motion in the name of Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, I am not going to move this Cut Motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.5,39,000 (Rupees five lakhs, and thirty-nine thousand), 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—“65.-A-2. Capital Outlay on Forests”.

(The Motion was adopted).

Grant No.20**“40.—Agriculture”**

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,29,29,700 (Rupees one crore, twenty-nine lakhs, twenty-nine thousand and seven 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—“40.—Agriculture.”

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.1,29,29,700 (Rupees one crore, twenty-nine lakhs, twenty-nine thousand and seven 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—"40.—Agriculture".

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

Grant No.21

"40.—Agriculture—II.—Fisheries."

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.6,80,800 (Rupees six lakhs, eighty thousand and eight hundred only), 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—"40.—Agriculture—II. Fisheries."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs. 6,80,800 (Rupees six lakhs, eighty thousand and eight hundred only), 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—"40.—Agriculture—II.—Fisheries."

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

Grant No.14

"29—Police"

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.1,87,24,100 (Rupees one crore, eighty-seven lakhs, twenty-four thousand and one 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—"29.—Police."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs. 1,87,24,100 (Rupees one crore, eighty-seven lakhs, twenty-four thousand and one 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—"29.—Police."

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:—

That the provision of Rs.28,20,159 under Grant No.14, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—B.—District Executive Force, Sub-head—(a)—District Police—Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas (total), at page 109 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,87,24,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, in connection with this Cut Motion, I would draw the attention of the House to the phenomenal increase in the Police expenditure in the Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas.

I shall place certain figures which will speak for themselves. We find that in respect of Sixth Schedule Areas the amount allotted in 1952-53 was Rs.10.5 lakhs, in 1954-55 the actuals rose to Rs.28.69 lakhs and in the present year's (1956-57) Budget it has risen to 269 per cent in comparison to the expenditure incurred 4 years ago.

Now, of these Sixth Schedule Districts, for Naga Hills alone the expenditure for the present Budget has been raised to Rs.10.8 lakhs or 37.7 per cent of this year's allocations for Police expenditure. In 1952-53, the Police expenditure in all the five Hill Districts was 10.5 lakhs.

Police provision for one district, that is, the Naga Hills this year is greater than that incurred for all districts four years ago, *i.e.*, 1952-53. Now, the enormity of this figure cannot be suppressed whatever the criterion may be taken into consideration. *Per capita* expenditure for Police for the next year as allocated in the present Budget will be Rs.2.02 on all Assam scale, for the Sixth Schedule Districts—Rs.2.44

and for the Naga Hills Rs.5.25. Of course it may be said that not only in the matter of Police but in the nation building sphere also we have raised the expenditure and particularly in the Sixth Schedule Districts including the Naga Hills. Now, if we compare the figures of the Police Budget with the nation building Departments we shall see that the increase is not in the same ratio. For example, Police cost in the Naga Hills in 1952-53 as I have already said, was Rs.1.60 lakhs, *per capita* cost was 0.78 and the index 100; now in 1956-57 it has gone to Rs.10.82 lakhs; *per capita* Rs.5.25 and index has now risen from 100 to 676. In the nation building Department we find that in 1952-53 the actual was Rs.9.44 lakhs and *per capita* was Rs.4.58. In this Budget we find that the total has been raised to Rs.22.07 lakhs and *per capita* has become Rs.10.7; so the index at present is 234. In other words, while in the nation building Departments there has been a rise in the index from 100 to 234, for Police there has been a rise from 100 to 676. This shows that there has been a heavy expenditure, rather a phenomenal increase in the expenditure in the Sixth Schedule Districts. It may be said that that was so due to the abnormal situation in the Naga Hills. But as I have said many a time, the remedy towards that is not only in the increase in Police cost but in real political approach. However, I do not want to go into details regarding the Naga Hills here because I have got another Cut Motion in that connection; but if I am allowed to speak on it now, I may not move that Cut Motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you may speak now and you need not move your second Cut Motion.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Thank you, Sir. Now, it is true that there is an abnormal situation in the Naga Hills which warranted heavier expenditure for Police and if I am asked as to whether this lawlessness there should be suppressed, whether the terrorism should be suppressed, I shall say 'of course it should be'. But there is another side of the picture also. While I admit that the terrorist activities done by a section of the Nagas should be suppressed, I cannot support the excesses committed by our Police in that district. While I oppose the demand which I think is quite unreasonable for a separate Naga independence, I cannot support the steam-roller of Police rule being pushed in that district.

Sir, this is most undignified and atrocious that the situation in the Naga Hills should be handled in this way by the Government. The entire people of the Naga Hills have not been reconciled. Unless and until the Police administration in the Naga Hills is improved, whatever measures, the Government will be taking will be useless. After all, the people in the Naga Hills should be understood with sympathy.

With these few words, Sir, I move my Cut Motion for the acceptance of the House. The second Cut Motion I am not moving.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.28,20,159 under Grant No. 14, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—B.—District Executive Force, Sub-head—(a)—District Police—Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas (total), at page 109 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,87,24,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we realise that in discussing about the Naga Hills situation we are discussing a very delicate situation, and we must not allow our passions to have the better of our reasons. But, Sir, when we have to discharge also our onerous duties, the situation in the Naga Hills, as we read in the newspapers every day reminds us as if a virtual warfare is going on in the Naga Hills. When I hear that the Deputy Commissioner and the Police constables were ambushed and many loss of life, I am surprised and amazed as to how these Naga people, who are living in our territory, could collect so many arms and ammunition, and how these people could continue guerilla warfares against armed troops. I have no sympathy for the Naga demand for independence. I condemn their acts of violence and terrorism. But at the same time, when I find when these Naga people have been doing acts of violence and terrorism for more than a month, I have failed to understand the reasons as to why the Criminal Investigation Department people on whom we have spent more than 12 lakhs of rupees should fail to collect any information in the Naga Hills regarding collection of arms and ammunition. If our Criminal Investigation Department people who have been posted in the Naga Hills could have collected the information regarding the arms and ammunition and could have trekked out the arms depot,

to day so many lives would not have been lost. Therefore, Sir it is all the more essential for us that while trekking down the extremist elements in the Naga Hills we have to create a feeling of amity and understanding. Unless we do that, there would be no improvement in the situation by increasing the Police Stations unless the Police and the Criminal Investigation Department people could collect information.

Sir, in supporting the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, I would like to know whether Government had any information regarding the collections of arms and ammunition beforehand. If they had not done so, I would like to know from the Government what measures they are going to have to collect information regarding arms and ammunition on which the Naga people have been carrying on the guerilla warfare against the armed platoons of the Government.

- **Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI** (Chief Minister):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is known to the hon. Members of the House that the Naga Hills and the Lushai Hills were excluded areas during the pre-Independence days, and during that time there were practically no police stations in the Naga Hills and in the Lushai Hills.

The police administration in these districts used to be discharged with the help of 20 platoons of Assam Rifles posted in these districts under the Deputy Commissioner who used to exercise the powers of the Superintendent of Police. After Independence also, the same arrangement continued for some time. The entire expenses of the Assam Rifles used to be borne by the Government of India. With the need for opening new administrative centres in NEFA, Assam Rifles had to be gradually withdrawn and intimation was given to the State Government that gradually all the Assam Rifles would have to be withdrawn and the State Government should make necessary arrangement to release them gradually according to the needs of the NEFA administration. On receipt of this intimation we had to build up armed police force and unarmed branch required for opening outposts and police posts in different parts of the Naga Hills and the Lushai Hills. With that object in view we gradually recruited 6 platoons of armed police for each of these districts to enable us to release the Assam Rifles from the police duties for which they were utilised. These recruitments for the armed and unarmed branch took sometime and we have been able to build up the required

strength for normal administration. During the pre-Independence period there was no Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Commissioner used to exercise the powers and functions of the Superintendent of Police and there was only one Thana at Kohima and one Thana at Aijal—there was no other police station in these districts. Even the duties of guarding the treasury and escorting the prisoners to jails, etc., used to be carried on by the Assam Rifles personnel. Sometime after the administration of these Excluded Areas were transferred to the State Government, the Government of India intimated the State Government to make necessary arrangement for releasing the Assam Rifles gradually according to the needs of the NEFA. The Assam Rifles were heavily equipped and armed according to the needs of the hill areas and the State Government had also, under the circumstances, to purchase suitable arms and equipments for building up our own police force in these areas to replace the Assam Rifles. In place of 20 platoons of Assam Rifles we have up till now raised only 6 platoons for each of the districts of Naga Hills and Lushai Hills and have minimised the expenditure but this is an additional amount we have to incur and this is one of the reasons why the police expenditure in the hills, particularly Naga Hills and Lushai Hills, has gone up.

Naturally when the same duties were entrusted to our Assam Police Force, we had to give them almost the same quantities of rations and other amenities as far as possible consistent with the financial resources of the State. Moreover the Assam Rifles were heavily armed; so we had to arm them also in the same way. As they were required to go inside the jungles, and as the other party was armed with some modern weapon, we had to arm them with machine guns, sten guns, etc. Moreover it being a hilly area, which is not easily accessible, we decided to post Gazetted Officers in different areas so that there might not be any kind of oppression on the innocent and simple-minded Nagas. The Gazetted Officers are responsible officers and it is quite natural that no act of oppression will be allowed to happen under their nose. For these reasons we had deputed Superintendent of Police, Additional Superintendent of Police, Deputy Superintendents of Police and Circle Inspectors just like other areas of the State according to the need of the area. My Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, got himself irritated when he said that there were acts of police excesses. I can tell him that there is no question of excesses. But we are dealing with a section of people there who are committing acts of violence. This Phizo, with some of his associates, the

other day came here and gave an undertaking to desist from committing acts of violence. When that statement of his was published, he resented this. That showed that outwardly he wanted to show that he was non-violent, but he was encouraging acts of violence in the Tuensang area. But when he found that the public was not in favour of his following that path in Naga Hills and that large section of the population were co-operating with the Government in the developmental activities that were being carried out there and that the public opinion was growing against him and that when he found that either the Government of India or any responsible person in India would not meet him so long as he did not give up the demand for independence, he made a desperate attempt to save his face by cowing down the liberal groups by committing acts of violence. The Naga Safeguard Party issued anonymous letters threatening the Government Servants and the loyal Gaonburas. Several of such Gaonburas were murdered. The liberal leader, T. Shakrie, was murdered. One Village Level Worker was murdered by these gangsters under the leadership of Phizo, for which a warrant of arrest has been issued. He has been declared an absconder. If he is innocent, can he not come out from his hiding and prove his innocence before a Magistrate? Instead of doing that, he is trying to draw the sympathy of man like my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, by spreading stories of oppressions which are absolutely baseless. My Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, is a responsible Member of this House, he is a lawyer and an advocate. If he believes in such fabricated stories, it is really regrettable. For the last five months from November to March, he could not let me know even confidentially, the names of the persons who gave him these informations of alleged oppression.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I have got the information of the happening in November last—that was what I said, Sir.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): It is absolutely false, Sir. He should not give credence to such stories. These stories were repeated by Phizo many times in the past for drawing sympathy of the people.

Sir, our not taking any action so long was taken by Phizo as a sign of weakness. We so long allowed them to carry on their propaganda—even the so called plebiscite they were out to take were allowed because we believe in democratic method and we do not like to interfere with others so long as they are

not committing any acts of violence. They misused that position and began to carry on the propaganda that Government was helpless and that Government could not do anything against them. I have made the position of the Government clear many times on the floor of the House in course of replying to the debate in connection with Governor's address and on some other occasions. If they do not observe the path of violence and give up their absurd demand of independence, they are quite welcome. Now they have launched a sort of war against the established Government of the land. If they had done so in any other country, I am afraid, Phizo or some of his associates would have been probably tried for committing treason and awarded the maximum punishment. But as we are non-violent in our action, we do not want to commit any sort of excesses. As a matter of fact, press statements have been issued by Government from time to time giving the position prevailing there. Now if any excesses were committed, why nobody lodged any complaint before any Magistrate there? In Kohima, when there was an attack in the Police Station, we sent officers to hold judicial enquiries. But in this particular case, nobody comes forward to take the responsibility or to lodge a complaint against the alleged excesses. Had there been some sort of a complaint from any quarter, then only it would have been possible to take some action. If certain irresponsible persons send some information or news which have no bearing to the actual state of affairs prevailing at present at Naga Hills, is it possible to take any action by the Government? The story of a little child of the age of 3 or 4 having been murdered by police is too incredible to believe. What purpose of the Police will be served by such wanton murder? Even then, had somebody come forward with certain complaints, the matter could have been properly enquired. Who prevented these people to come forward with the complaint during this long 5 months? That these people failed to lodge a complaint during this long period amply illustrate only one fact, and that is, this is an entirely got up story having no basis whatsoever.

As regards the point raised by Shri Goswami regarding large number of arms and ammunition dumped by the Naga reactionaries, as the hon. Members of the House are aware, communication in the Naga Hills is the most difficult problem. It is full of terrain and jungles. The large number of arms and ammunition that the Nagas collected and kept there remained untraced by our Police due to the *jungli* nature of the hills, for quite a long time. Due to the gangster method of lawless

elements, in the beginning it was very difficult to get any information about these arms and ammunition. But gradually the liberal group of the Nagas came to realise the futility of Phizo's promises and began to rally round the Government side and promised all help to Government. This has thoroughly upset the group lead by Phizo and he began to issue circulars in different dialects with the sole purpose of creating a state of panic in the minds of the people and threatening them with their lives in case they would give any help to the Government. I had spoken on this subject on several previous occasions, and I once again urge upon the hon. Members to realise the tactics applied by these people. Simply on the strength of an unauthorised and baseless information given by certain interested parties, if any responsible Member of this House make any statement of the kind we have heard today, it will lead us nowhere and I am quite sure, posterity will never excuse Mr. Bhattacharyya for such reckless statement made by him.

As regards the expenditure, from the revised statement of 1955-56 we see the expenditure on this head has appreciably gone down in each of the districts, *i.e.*, Garo Hills, Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Lushai Hills. In place of 20 platoons of Assam Rifles, we are now proposing to keep only two platoons in each of these districts costing about Rs.2 lakhs in each district. Of course, these being hilly districts, we have to give some special allowance and concession ration to these people which I hope the hon. Members will not grudge in view of the difficult nature of their work under still more difficult circumstances exposing themselves to bullets at any moment. Nor is it possible for us to depend on the Central Government in this matter. Because when these Excluded Areas came to our control, it became necessary for the State Government to build up our Thanas, outposts, etc., for our Police personnel.

Pu LALMAWIA : With the withdrawal of the Assam Rifles from the Autonomous districts, does the Government think that these 6 platoons now proposed to be retained there will be sufficient for maintenance of law and order position having regard to the fact that this entire area borders on the Pakistan?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): In fact, we are gradually building up our Police force in these districts. We have at present two platoons at Aijal. Over and above this, near the international border, there its

out post of the Assam Rifles for guarding the border. There are also another contingent of our Border Security Force adjacent to the border.

With these few words I request Mr. Bhattacharyya to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you propose to withdraw Mr. Bhattacharyya?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: No, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that the provision of Rs.28,20,159 under Grant No.14, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—B.—District Executive Force, Sub-head—(a)—District Police—Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas (total), at page 109 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,87,24,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The Motion was negatived).

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.97,27,546 under Grant No.14, Major head—29.—Police Minor head—B.—District Executive Force (total), at page 110 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,87,24,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise the police [firing at Lumding on 28th December, 1955])

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, the subject matter for which Cut Motion has been brought is sub-judice. So, cannot be discussed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, this matter is sub-judice.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, may we know whether the enquiring magistrate's report will be made available to the House?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya himself is a lawyer. There is no provision by which Government can call for report of judicial enquiries. The Deputy Commissioner deputed a magistrate for holding a Judicial enquiry into the incident. Anybody who is not satisfied with the enquiry report can prefer an appeal before the Deputy Commissioner. We are not in a position to call for an enquiry report and I think my Friend will appreciate the position.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.49,04,548 under Grant No.14, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—G.—Criminal Investigation Department (total), at page 121 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,87,24,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of my Cut Motion is to criticise the failure of Criminal Investigation Department to detect and properly investigate crimes. Sir, here we have noticed that in several parts of the State crimes are increasing. We need not go very far as even in this capital town of Shillong, the Laitumkhrah side has become a dangerous area after 8 P.M. In my own home district of Kamrup we have seen that murders and child-lifting and other heinous crime are increasing. But the Criminal Investigation Department has up till now not been able to show any good result in investigating the actual criminals in these cases. For example, let me cite one instance which is known to the Chief Minister also because it was reported to him, and also to the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party. At Rangia, within two miles from the Police Station, a heinous murder was committed. Some people entered the house of one Debendra Goswami and gave him several *Dao* blows. He became unconscious and before he died after the occurrence, he had given at least two names of the suspects and within that night itself information was sent to the doctor and also to the police station. The doctor came, but the police did not. And even on the next day—when this man died at 9 A.M.—no police officer did come to that area. The Officer in charge of the police station preferred to go to Gauhati instead of going to the area of the incident and as a result those suspects whose names were given in the dying declaration—they were not people of the State and were immigrants—got scent anyhow that the man did not die instantaneously and so they fled away and left the area. Those persons have not yet been traced. I think this matter was brought to the notice of the Chief Minister and also of the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party and they have instructed the police there to make proper investigation into the matter. At any rate, we are not concerned what may be done in the future, but in the past this sort of laxity was there. I give another instance. At Baihata in the Kamalpur Circle there was a murder case. As it was a case of grievous hurt because the man did not die instantaneously, those who were accused were granted bail and as soon as they went out, they came

in contact with a man who was related to the deceased. He killed one of those men cutting him into pieces, but the police did not take any step for a long time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is not this matter sub-judice?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: We are not going into the merit of the case. But the point is that crimes are in this way committed and police do not take proper action. Some baby-lifting in the area of my Friend, Mr. Deka, has recently taken place. This is not a new case. In previous years in this way some baby-lifting cases took place in the Kamalpur thana itself and after lifting the baby it was killed and yet the baby lifter or killer was not traced. This time the baby was found killed in a graveyard. This sort of heinous crimes such as dacoities, thefts, pickpocketing, burglaries, etc., have increased. In spite of the heavy expenditure for the Criminal Investigation Department we find that in most cases the investigation is very defective. If the Criminal Investigation Department is not more careful in their investigation and the cases are not done thoroughly it is likely that the criminals can escape. After political workers, however, criminal Investigation Department people are very active. Whether the Criminal Investigation Department people are actively after me or not I care a fig. But they should do justice to the money they get from the State coffers. They should be more mindful of the criminal affairs than of running after political persons because after all now-a-days happily the political situation in the country as a whole is not so as to make them perturbed. At any rate, there is much room for improvement.

Secondly, Sir, sometimes due to the lack of proper supervision and control from the top these police officers, specially of the Criminal Investigation Department, give untrue reports. For example, if a police officer is sent for giving some report on the character of a certain person, instead of making an impartial and thorough enquiry, he goes to some shop-keeper and asks him as to the character of the person concerned. It might be that if the shopkeeper has got some grievance against that person and he gives a wrong report that he is a bad man, then the police officer goes back with that wrong report. Some of the Congress Members also have made this complaint. In this way, Sir, we find that perfunctory reports generally are given. There are cases, to my knowledge, that the people who are

otherwise fit for Government service, for such adverse police reports, they do not get the service. Here, even in Shillong, I can cite instances within our own Assembly establishment where due to defective verification some not very desirable people also have got appointment. It is because we find that the Criminal Investigation Department people are not very active where they ought to be and they are inactive where they ought not to be. This is why I move this Cut Motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.49,04,548, under Grant No.14, Major head—29.—Police, Minor head—G.—Criminal Investigation Department (total), at page 121 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,87,24,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Adjournment

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

(After Lunch)

Shri MOHENDRANATH DEKA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya, while moving his Cut Motion on the Police Grant referred to some occurrences in Kamalpur area. For the information of the House, I would like to say, that on 25th January, 1956 a child of 3 months of age was reported to be missing from the sleeping mother's bosom at the mid-night. On the next evening, *i.e.*, 26th January, there was a lurking suspicion of the people of that area against some members of the neighbouring family, and that suspicion grew stronger. On the 27th January, police was also informed accordingly, besides the people of the village kept a strict watch round the house of the family. In the latter part of 27th January a report was given out from that family that one female child was given delivery of by a woman at dead of night on that day. On constant watch by the villagers on the 27th it was found that some members of that family was going out of their house with something in their hand and they were proceeding to the cremation ground. They were followed by the villagers and could procure the killed child, and the matter was reported by them to the Kamalpur Police immediately and the police came within an hour and all members of the family were arrested and the case is now under investigation.

There were other cases of alleged murder, etc., and the police have taken immediate steps to arrest the alleged culprits

whose cases are under investigation. This is the information which I have.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya referred to two cases—one in Kamalpur and the other in Rangia. As regards the Kamalpur case, my Friend, Shri Mohendranath Deka, who is well acquainted with the facts of the case, gave full information to the House. Mr. Bhattacharyya, I think forgets for the time being the fact that bail is generally granted by the magistrate and in such cases police has nothing to do.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I did not accuse the police. What I said is that while the accused was on bail all these things happened.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): He gave the indirect idea that bail was granted by the police.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: There is no indirect idea.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): As regards Rangia case, on the day of occurrence the police went there and the police officer had to carry the injured man with him as he thought that if immediate medical aid was given the man might survive. This man gave the names of the accused person but the accused persons are Pakistan national and stepped out in the meantime and naturally police could not find them out. There was no delay in instituting enquiry. I agree with Mr. Bhattacharyya, when he said that there is scope for improvement of investigation by the Criminal Investigation Departments, but all these cases are not investigated by the Criminal Investigation Department unless they are special cases and cases in which the police failed to make the detection. Criminal Investigation Department afterwards was ordered to investigate the case in this particular case when the matter was brought to my notice.

Here, I will give some figures to show that the detection is not as bad as it is alleged by him. The number of dacoities reported in 1953 was 393, out of which 253 were detected. In 1954, 309 cases were reported and 225 detected. In 1955, 246 cases were reported, 164 detected. These figures clearly show that the percentage of detection is not unfavourable in comparison

with other States. In 1953, robbery cases of reported was 146, out of which 118 was detected. In 1954, robbery case reported were 148, were out of which 128 was detected. In 1955 out of 133, 63 cases were detected. There has been a lot of arms and ammunitions recovered particularly in the Naga Hills. In 1953 there were 100 cases of robbery reported and out of this as many as 96 were detected. In 1954, 68 cases reported and 61 were detected and 1955, 104 cases were reported, out of which 78 were detected. Evidently as I have already stated a large number of arms and ammunition were also detected and recovered.

I quite appreciate that in these days intelligent persons are participating in dacoities and such other crimes. The political parties who had believed in violence were also somewhat responsible for this, as it will appear that during the time when the Revolutionary Communist Party and the Communist Party believed in violence at that time a large number of crimes such as dacoities and murders were committed with the help of undesirable persons.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: So far as the Communist Party is concerned there was no dacoity.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): There was murder.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: No. Never.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): One is already convicted.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Not for murder.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): There was retrail.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: The Chief Minister now speaks something which is sub-judice.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): In the Sessions Court he was convicted.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I was a lawyer in that case. I know it better than the Chief Minister knows. He was acquitted of the charge of murder.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): In the S.I. murder case?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Yes, in the Gobinda Das murder case.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): My point is that some of these people took to violence and although the political parties for the time being have suspended violence and taken to democratic ways of thinking, those followers have not ceased violence. That is why the number of violent cases are on the increase. We are trying to introduce some sort of training for detection of crimes and proposing to establish a Forensic Laboratory in the State to give scientific and technical advice to the officers engaged in the investigation of crimes. When that scheme is finalised, we want to give effect to it immediately so that our officers will be trained in up-to-date scientific machinery for the detection of crimes. My Friend has complained that the Criminal Investigation Department could not do much, but from the figures quoted above it is evident that they have done as much as possible. Still we want further improvement in the detection of crimes and we are on the way to that. In view of this, I hope my hon. Friend will see his way to withdraw the Cut Motion.

(The Motion, was by leave of the House, withdrawn).

***Shri HARESWAR GOWSAMI:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,87,24,100 under Grant No.14, Major head—29.—Police, at page 103 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,87,24,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My whole purpose in bringing this Cut Motion is to draw the attention of the House to the behaviour of the Railway Police. As the House knows that almost in all important stations there are Railway Police who are controlled by the State Government. They are given as if on loan to the Railway, but what we find is that these Railway Police mostly

*Speech not corrected.

have not been able to discharge their functions properly and very often they are found lacking in courage and manliness. I would cite only one instance which occurred under my very eyes about 6 months back at Gauhati and I had to ring up the Inspector of Police, Gauhati Circle for this and take his help to avoid a very ugly situation. I do not remember the exact date now, but what happened on that day is this. I was going to Upper Assam by a train and the train was coming late from Pandu and in the compartment I was travelling there were some Assam Battalion men who were going on leave. In that compartment was coming an Air Force personnel also on leave. At Pandu he came into that compartment. Perhaps these Assam Battalion men did not like him and wanted to get him out, but after insistence somehow he came in. At Gauhati he was driven forcibly from the compartment and the result was that there were some altercations between him and these men. Then he was running and was pursued by 5 or 6 Assam Battalion men who caught and belaboured him in the presence of a Railway Police Constable. They were also on the point of stabbing him with a dagger. So, I had to go into the melee. I asked the Police—"what are you doing", but he did not care, he was just listening what I was saying. I myself had to throw out those people and save the man from their clutches. I reported the matter to the Station Master and asked him to take the names of those men and he did not do anything. For more than one hour the train had to be detained. The Officer-in-charge, Railway Police, was contacted but he did not come. Then I had to ring up the Officer-in-charge, Gauhati Police Station and the Circle Inspector and seek their help and only when they came, the Railway Police Officer came and even then he could not persuade or force those men to come down from the compartment and their names were also not taken. For more than one hour the train was late and even after that nothing was done.

So my intention in drawing the attention of the House to this is to show that this is not the only case. In several other cases also we found the Railway Police is there only to decorate the Railway Station. They do not do anything. Although the Magistrate has given a stricture in the Lumding firing case, the Railway Police is as inactive as before. You are quite aware how the boy was belaboured mercilessly by the Police.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): That is also sub-judice.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Then how could it be reported on the floor of the House by the Chief Minister and the Governor?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): That was with regard to the firing.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: This firing was unjustified.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Against the Assistant Sub-Inspector a case under section 323, Indian Penal Code is pending and he has been suspended. The case is not tried yet because it has been found that two ticket collectors are also involved in this assault case and identification parade could not be held. As the complainant is now in hospital, the identification parade has not been possible and therefore the case has not yet been taken up and the trial has not yet commenced.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: These things happen under the very nose of the Railway Police and the Police seems to be coward. The Police do not want to do what they are required to do. They interfere where they are not to interfere and where there is any chance of getting something, they do whatever they like in their own way. Our police in the democratic set-up, is to protect the lives and property of the individuals. Unfortunately in the Railway Police, I have seen with my own eyes—I interfered—I have seen that they have exposed their cowardness like anything. They have not got the manly courage to tackle such a situation. Unless they are geared up, unless they are advised and instructed to have more courage to tackle the situation, unless they are asked, 'your duty is not only to use firearms but to bring about a happy solution of an awkward situation'—unless these things are done, the feeling is that the Police have not changed with the change of Government or with the changed situation in the country.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved :

That the total provision of Rs.1,87,24,100 under Grant No.14, Major head—29.—Police, at page 103 of the Budget

be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,87,24,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, instead of moving my Motion, I beg to say a few words in support of the Motion moved by my Friend, Mr. Goswami. Generally, so far as common people are concerned they come in contact not with high police officers, but with Constables, Head Constables, Assistant Sub-Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, etc., Therefore, the general impression of the people about the Police Department is bound to be through the contact with these petty officers, from the treatment they receive from them. So, I think it is very necessary that, if we want to make our Police Department really popular just like the Police Department in England, our look-out should be that these police officers and police personnel who come in contact with the people everyday and every hour, their demeanour, their dealings with people should be always very good. Now, it is exactly here that we do not see much improvement. I want to give two instances which occurred only recently in my own presence. That is on the 17th of March of this year, I saw at Gauhati a traffic policeman in the police stand just near the Railway Station approach road near the College Hostel, leaving his post and chatting in a Pan shop near-by with some other people. A bullock cart was coming by the wrong direction, then a truck came and another first class car and there was almost an accident but somehow or other it was averted. Then the policeman who had left his post came and gave a thrashing to the man driving the bullock cart. I was coming in a rickshaw and having seen that, I got down and asked him what was the matter? He told me that the bullock cart was coming from a wrong side. I told him, "You are there to show him the right direction, he comes from a village and he does not know the rules; why are you there in the Pan shop instead of being here in your post?" He replied, "That is none of your business." I requested him to give me his Number. He told me "I have no Number, you may go to the Superintendent of Police and enquire from him about my Number". He did not give the Number. Actually I saw there was no Number Plate on his body, there were of course the letters "A.P." on his body but the Number which ought to be there was not there. Why should there be no Number on the body of the constable specially when on such a duty? It is by those Numbers that the people who want to make a complaint can complain against policeman. That very afternoon while I was coming in a

city bus, I saw another constable coming in the bus. When he got down near the High Court, the Bus conductor demanded a fare from him. Then he said—"Fare, fare from a policeman?" and abused the conductor. The conductor of course abused him in turn by saying that, "you policeman have all become Lat Sahibs". There were other passengers also in the bus. It is not proper, after all, it gives an impression that the policemen who travel by bus have not got to pay fare, because if they are asked for, they will abuse the conductor. So, Sir, I am giving these two concrete instances which took place in front of my own eyes. There may be more such instances which I do not know. My request is that Government and the departmental heads should see that these pin-pricks may not take place in future. After all, the common people come in contact with these police personnel very often, practically every hour and not so frequently with the well educated and high officers of the Department. My request to the Government is that if they really want to make the Police Department popular, they should see that those who are at the bottom also know how to behave in their dealings with the public.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry I know nothing about the two instances narrated by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya—I shall make necessary enquiries. As a matter of fact I must say that the policeman placed on such duties are meant for helping and protecting the public, but I do not claim that all policemen are angels. As I said, I was not aware of these two instances nor do I disbelieve my Friend when he has given these instances from his personal experience. I will certainly make full enquiries into the behaviour of these policemen in case my hon. Friend supplies me the particulars. It will also help us if my Friend will at least inform me privately or in writing giving me more information about these cases so that I can look into the matter. It is the sincere desire of the Government to weed out undesirable policemen because that will help in bringing about better relationship between the police and the public. If there are persons in the police force who got out of the way or misbehaved with the public in such a way that it is not to interest of the Police Department as well as of the police, it is the desire of the Government to weed out those persons. The policemen just like the Ministers and other Government servants are to consider themselves always as the servants of the people and not as masters. With that end in view, as the House is aware, whenever there is any natural calamity like earth

quake or floods we generally employ these policemen to help the public so that better relationship between the police and the people can be established. As it may be known that we are raising Village Defence Parties in different areas to help police and secure public co-operations in detection and prevention of crimes. We have succeeded in many areas, as these Village Defence Parties have been very helpful to the police and ably helping them in the detection of crime, burglaries and other crimes. We have also by issue of circulars impressed on our police men that they are servants of the people and not their masters so that they are to be polite and courteous.

Sir, in view of these facts, I would request my hon. Friend, that he would see his way to withdraw the Cut Motion.

(The Motion was, by the leave of the House, withdrawn).

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,87,24,100 under Grant No.14, Major head—29.—Police, at page 103 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,87,24,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, like my hon. Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, I am not going to question about the heavy expenditure in this Department, though this is increasing every day. I come from a border district. We are between troubles on both sides. On one side there is the border problems and on the other there is the inefficient internal administration, *i.e.*, absence of security from either side. I do not want to question about the increase of expenditure. But, I want to speak about inefficiency of the Police Department. During the discussion on the Police many of my hon. friends who took part observed that what Government could expect from the police personnel, even after a lapse of eight years of independence when their relationship with the public men did not improve? Even today the police-men think that they are the masters of the people and the country and not servants. They perform their duties according to their sweetwill and do not even care in critical time to protect the life and property of the public. I do not like to say this about the senior grade officers who are mostly very cordial with the public as I have seen myself. But particularly, I am speaking this about the junior officers right

from the Deputy Superintendent of Police downwards. My hon. Friend, Mr. Goswami, has rightly said that they are over-jubilant when there is any case of burglary or cross cases because in cases of that kind they will get the opportunity of money transaction, and they are found to be slack, inactive when their presence is urgently necessary for preservation of law and order. For example, I could cite the case of recent Goalpara disturbances. The police instead of coming to the rescue of the people and to protect the life and property, they confused the whole situation at Goalpara and trouble took place before their eyes even. They were absolutely inactive. Then again let us take the case of Jorhat Technical Institution. The authorities of the institution when called for their services, their help, they did not care to help them. These are some of the instances where the Police personnel failed to do their job efficiently. There are on the other hand cases where we see that the Police are over-jubilant. Take for instance the cases—like Lumding firing. I am not going to speak on the merits of this case because this case is now sub-judice. I do not want to bring in any more instances as these there are enough because the Chief Minister cannot say now that my charges are vague. Sir, even in Shillong, which is the capital of the State, there have been cases of stabbing not only at Laitumkhrah, but also cases of stabbing in front of the Deputy Commissioner's court. There is a police point also. I do not know what action is being taken by the Police. In such cases drastic action should be taken by the Government, otherwise these few cases might lead to serious repercussion.

Then, Sir, I give you another example. This is a case of burglary committed in the house of a big merchant at Karimganj. His name is Shri Promode Behari Roy, a Municipal Commissioner. His shop is in the Bazar, and the Police Station is very near to the Bazar. They did not care to visit the shop on the very night when the burglary was committed. On the following day information was sent to the Thana, and I also informed the Police by Telephone. After that they visited the shop. But, Sir, instead of finding out the culprits, the property which was valued at about Rs. 2 or 3 thousand, with a view to harass the employees of the owner of the shop, the police arrested some of the employees of the shop-owner. The owner of the shop had to spend about Rs.300 for the release of his employees. Then, Sir, another serious case of burglary occurred near my house, in the house of Shri Jitendra Kumar Das, a Municipal Commissioner and not a single case could be detected by the Police. As I have already

informed the House that the Police in the Thana demanded charges in the shape of bribe, as Shri P. B. Rai had to pay.

Then the question is how to tackle the situation? Policemen must be trained. As policemen they should think that they are servants of the people and not their masters. We are paying their salaries from the State coffer in every month. It is their duty to protect the life and property of the people. We would not have cared for heavy expenditure in the Department as I have already told you, Sir, they did their duty efficiently with a view to protect the life and property of the people. After all we want to live in peace.

Another point has been raised by my hon. Friend, probably, Mr. Goswami, that the ordinary police personnel do not care to pay the bus fare and the train fare when they travel by bus and by train. Even the drivers and handymen do not dare to ask them to pay the bus fare, etc. But, Sir, it should be remembered that they get a very little pay. Even the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors get cycle allowances of Rs.5 only, and the area of the circles in most cases is more than 20 miles in radius.

So it is very difficult for the Police Officers to go from one place to another meeting the expenses from the travelling allowance as they get now and as such indirectly the Government is forcing them to travel in the buses or in the train without purchasing tickets and to live on the villagers when they go on tour instead of living in the Inspection Bungalows at their own cost. Steps should be taken by the Government so that these poorer sections of Police who get very little pay now should get better pay so that they can avoid these unfair means and the Administration can improve in this direction. Until and unless we can give our lower grade Police Officers better pay and better housing conditions, how can we expect better services from them?

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.1,87,24,100 under Grant No.14, Major head—29.—Police, at page 103 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of whole grant of Rs.1,87,24,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUAH : মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় আজিৰ এই সদনত পুলিচ বিভাগৰ কাৰ্য্যদক্ষতা নাইকীয়া হৈছে—কাৰ্য্যকুশলতা কমি গৈছে বুলি বহুতো সদস্যই সমালোচনা কৰিছে। আমাৰ দেশ স্বাধীন হোৱাৰ পিছত আমাৰ সমাজৰ সকলোৱেই বেচি ক্ষমতা পোৱাটো অনুভৱ কৰিছে কিন্তু দুটো দলটোৱে তাক বেচি অনুভৱ কৰিছে। বিদেশী বৃষ্টিৰ শাসনৰ দিনত এই চোৰ ডকাইতবোৰে ইমান গা কৰিব নোৱাৰিছিল; এতিয়া দিনক দিনে এই দুৰ্বৃত্ত বিলাকৰ অত্যাচাৰ বঢ়াক চাই আমাৰ পুলিচ বিভাগে তেওঁবিলাকৰ কাৰ্য্যদক্ষতা দেখুৱাবলৈ সক্ষম হ'ব পৰা নাই। আজি চুৰি-ডকাইতি হ'বলৈ ধৰিছে—নিৰস্ত্ৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ ওপৰত অস্ত্ৰ-শস্ত্ৰেৰে। ডকাইতি কৰে জীপ গাৰীৰে হাতত আধুনিক ধৰণৰ 'ষ্টেনগান' 'ৰিভলভাৰ' আদি লৈ। এই বিলাকৰ দমন অৰ্থে আমাৰ পুলিচৰ হাতত কি আছে? ধৰক, এঠাইত ডকাইতি হৈছে—অস্ত্ৰ-শস্ত্ৰেৰে ৰাতি; পুলিচত খবৰ দিয়া হল—পুলিচেনো কি কৰিব 'ষ্টেনগান' 'ৰিভলভাৰ' মটৰৰ আগত—হাতত এডাল লাঠি লৈ। এনে অৱস্থাত আমাৰ পুলিচৰ কাৰ্য্যদক্ষতাই বোলক বা কাৰ্য্যকুশলতাই বোলক জনসাধাৰণৰ চকুত এই বিলাক কমি যোৱাটো একো আচৰিত নহয়।

সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ পুলিচক সশস্ত্ৰীকৰণ কৰি কিছু ক্ষমতা আমাৰ চৰকাৰে দিয়া প্ৰয়োজন—বিশেষকৈ কিছুমান ভিতৰুৱা এলেকাত থকা খানাবোৰত অন্ততঃ ভয় দেখুৱাবলৈ হলেও খানাবোৰত কেইটামান বন্দুক থকা উচিত। এই ভিতৰুৱা ঠাইৰ খানাবিলাক দুৰ্বৃত্ত দলে আক্ৰমণ কৰা কথাও আমি প্ৰায়ে শুনিবলৈ পাইছো। পুলিচ সকলক যদি অস্ত্ৰ-শস্ত্ৰ আৰু ক্ষমতা দিয়া হয়, তেন্তে এনেবোৰ দৃঃসাহসিক কাম দুৰ্বৃত্ত দলে কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা নেপাব আৰু শান্তি আৰু শৃঙ্খলা অটুত থাকিব। আগতে পুলিচক সশস্ত্ৰীকৰণ কৰিবলৈ বিদেশী চৰকাৰে ভয় কৰিছিল, আমিও আপত্তি কৰিছিলো। এতিয়া দেশ স্বাধীন হোৱাৰ পিছত সেই ভয়ৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই, কাৰণ এতিয়া আমাৰ দেশত শান্তি আৰু শৃঙ্খলা ৰক্ষা কৰা আমাৰ প্ৰত্যেকৰে কৰ্তব্য আৰু এই পুলিচ বিভাগবোৰ আমাৰ নিজা।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, পুলিচ বিভাগৰ কাৰণে বেচি টকা বাজেটত ধৰাই হৈছে আৰু এই বৃদ্ধিৰ পৰাই ওপৰোক্ত সশস্ত্ৰী পুলিচক বেচি টকা দিয়া দৰকাৰ বুলি মই ভাবো। শ্ৰীযুত ৰণেন্দ্ৰ মোহন দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই তলতীয়া পুলিচৰ যিসকলৰ ভিতৰত দুৰ্নীতি পৰায়ণ লোক থকা কথাষাৰ কৈছে মই সমৰ্থন কৰো। সেই কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ কোনোবাই কৰ্তব্যত অৱহেলা কৰি দোষ কৰিলে অকল বদলি কৰিয়েই নহয় কঠোৰ শাস্তি দিয়াৰো বিধান কৰিব লাগে। কাৰণ দোষ কৰিলে তাৰ প্ৰতিব্যৱস্থা হিচাবে অকল বদলি কৰিলেই তেনে কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ মনোবৃত্তিৰ সংশোধন নহয়। বৰঞ্চ আন এঠাইত সেই দুৰ্নীতিকে চলাই থাকিব। সেই কাৰণে হয়, সিবিলাকৰ কঠোৰ শাস্তি হিচাবে কামৰ পৰা বখাস্ত কৰিব লাগে,—নহয়, এনে কিছুমান বিভাগীয় শাস্তিৰ আঁচনি কৰিব লাগে যাৰ দ্বাৰা এই কৰ্মচাৰী বিলাক ভবিষ্যতৰ কাৰণে সতৰ্ক হয় আৰু আন বিলাকেও যাতে দোষ কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা নাপায়।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, পুলিচ বিভাগ উন্নত কৰিবলৈ হলে টকা বেচি লাগিবই। এই মৰ্মে চৰকাৰে যি অধিক টকা ব্যয়ৰ মঞ্জুৰী বিচাৰিছে আমি তাক দিয়াটো উচিত বুলি বিবেচনা কৰো। ওপৰত উল্লেখ কৰাৰ দৰে যদি আজি আমাৰ জনসাধাৰণ চোৰ-ডকাইতৰ দ্বাৰা উৎপীড়িত হয় তেন্তে দুৰ্বৃত্ত সকলৰ অত্যাচাৰৰ ওৰ নপৰিব।

চোৰ ডকাইতৰ অত্যাচাৰত মানুহৰ শান্তি শৃঙ্খলা ভঙ্গ হোৱাৰ কথা আমি জানো। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে শিক্ষা, আলি-পদূলি, উন্নয়ন কাম আদি সকলো কৰিব লাগে কিন্তু আমি প্ৰায়ে দেখো বন্দুক আদি লৈ চোৰ ডকাইতে মটবত আহি মানুহৰ শান্তি ভঙ্গ কৰিছে। সেই বিলাকক দমন কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে চৰকাৰৰ অস্তিত্বই নাথাকিব। এনেকুৱা বিলাক ক্ষেত্ৰত আমাৰ পুলিচৰ শক্তি ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিবই লাগিব। দেশৰ শান্তি বৰ্দ্ধা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে সামৰিক শক্তি প্ৰয়োগ কৰাও কোনো দোষনীয় কথা নহয়, বৰং ই চৰকাৰৰ কৰ্তব্য। গতিকে এইবোৰ কামৰ বাবে অধিক খৰচৰ প্ৰয়োজন; কাজেই পুলিচৰ শিতানত বেচি টকা ধৰা কাৰণে আপত্তি কৰাৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই। নগা পাৰ্চাৰত যিদৰে শান্তিপ্ৰিয় লোকক হত্যা কৰি সম্পত্তি লুটপাট কৰিছে, তাৰ প্ৰতিকাৰ কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰে ব্যৱস্থা লোৱা মই সম্পূৰ্ণ সমৰ্থন কৰো। আৰু সেই কাৰণে ভাটচাৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ মই বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো।

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Shri Barua, has stated that some armed constables should be placed in all Thanas and he said that unless and until arms and ammunitions are provided adequately with the Police, people committing dacoities with the help of arms and ammunitions cannot be properly detected. I quite fully appreciate his statement. In fact almost in all the Thanas some musketries are kept. These musketries may not be quite sufficient in all cases and in order to give them proper help in case of need we have provided the district headquarters with some vans and all the Police Thanas are connected by a set of wireless, so that in case of need some armed constables may move immediately in these mobile vans, from the district headquarters and help the Police of the outlying Thanas in arresting and pursuing the persons who might be committing dacoities with arms and ammunitions. But my Friend, Shri Barua, will appreciate that we cannot go on increasing the expenditure on Police to cover the whole countryside with armed Police in all Police Stations. That is why we have been organising Village Defence Parties who will help police—in these matter by co-operating with them in maintenance of law and order and prevention of crime. That will enable the Government to prevent crime in the areas and we have succeeded to a great extent in decreasing crimes in places where incidence of crimes is in high. An well organised Village Defence Party can also help in keeping watch at night and in many cases these crimes are prevented.

These crimes have decreased to a great extent in such areas. Sir, our aim is to establish an Welfare State and if we are to achieve our end, we must be in a position to reduce our expenditure on the Police so that the savings may be utilised for

various developmental schemes. But this can be done only with public co-operation coming forth in an increasing measure to Government.

My Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, has stated that the Police constables are not properly trained. In reply, I would draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that we have recently established a Police Training College where not only our Police Officers are trained, but provision has been made for training of our constabulary also. It is now the policy of the Government to post a constable in his job only after training for a period of at least one year in the training College.

As regards pay and emoluments of the Police Officers, the last Pay Committee have considerably increased the pay and emoluments of the Police Officers. Even after that we have sanctioned an interim benefit to the low-paid officers. The matter is still being considered by the Pay Committee this year. It is always be our endeavour to increase the pay and emoluments of the low-paid officers, and with that object in view the Pay Committee has been formed. Then again, according to the exigencies of circumstances, special allowances and concessional rations have been given to people working in borders areas in danger zone from in accessible areas.

Shri Ranendra Mohan Das has raised another point and has stated that the Police Officers did not go to interfere in a dispute that started between two sections of students at Jorhat. He should however remember that educational institutions are looked upon as a place of sanctity, and unless the head of the educational institution seeks the help of the Police, it may not be desirable generally for Police to interfere and intervene in such matters unless of course on very weighty grounds. Therefore when there was a clash or dispute between one section of student and another, Police are expected to keep a watch and not to interfere unless the Head of the Institution seeks for police aid. Now coming to this particular case, about which I remember to have written a letter to my Friend, Shri Das, the Head Master of the Institution when enquired by the Police whether or not he would require any Police help, he declined to accept Police help and informed them that he would himself be able to settle the dispute. Under the circumstances, in this particular case, no charge can be levelled against the Police that they did not interfere in the incident.

Then as regards the shops alleged to have been looted at Karimganj, I do not know under what circumstances, the servant was arrested, but in case he was arrested under suspicion, he must have been produced before a Magistrate for which there must be some material in possession of the Police. But at any rate, I do not think it is a case which does warrant any interference from me. Because in the best interest of the Police administration, it is necessary that certain amount of initiative and drive should be left with the Police and if interference is made from higher authority in such small matters, all initiative of the police officers in the lower rank will be lost and they will have in that case no incentive or initiative for investigation of cases and detection of culprits. I do not know if the servant was suspected by his master also or if he gave some names or narrated certain circumstances from which it could be inferred that the Police might have suspected the servant to be involved in the crimes. If there was delay in investigation, the hon. Member might have brought this delay to the notice of authority. I, therefore, request the hon. Members to bring such specific case to my notice immediately so that it can be promptly acted upon. As a matter of fact, we seek the help and co-operation of the public in such matters so that whenever or wherever any wrong is detected, it may be quickly rectified. We have so many Police officers all over the State that it may sometime, in spite of our best endeavours, fail to draw our attention, in some cases of alleged misconduct of the Police. I do not mean to say that all our Police officers are angels. There may be some who are probably not just as we expect them to be. And that is why when any omission or commission is detected, they should be brought to the notice of the appropriate authority and also to us. Our officers are fully entrusted to deal with such cases. In this connection I would like to give certain cases of corruption that had been detected during the last three years. In 1953, there were only 45 cases of corruption against Police Officers, in 1954, the number was 43 and in 1955 only 25. Out of these 25 cases, 7 cases were committed to the Courts and 11 cases dealt with departmentally by drawing up proceedings. The charges relating to these cases concern mainly Constables and Assistant Sub-Inspectors and not a single one to higher officers. This shows that the number of corruption cases is gradually decreasing, and our Police administration has shown a marked tendency towards improvement. Of course, we have yet to achieve much, but that can be done only with the co-operation of the people.

With this explanation of mine, I request my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya to withdraw his Cut Motion.

(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs. 1,87,24,100, 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—"29.—Police".

(The Motion was adopted)

Grant No.52.

"81.—Capital outlay on Electricity Schemes"

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.87,98,800, 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—"81.-A.—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.87,98,800, 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—"81.—A.-Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes".

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.56,00,000 under grant No. 52, Major head—81.—A—Capital outlay on Electricity Schemes, Minor head—I—Hydro-Electric Schemes (total), at page 554 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,98,800, do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, I want in this connection to emphasise the urgency of nationalising the hydro-electric supply at Shillong. After the experience got by the hon. Members of this House during this session I think it is clear to them that the present concern has failed to discharge its duties properly and efficiently. For getting light in order to enable us to read even a bulb with 100 candle power is not sufficient now-a-days, and over and above this, every night at least for half an hour we are to remain in darkness. Yet, Sir, the charge taken by this electricity

concern is too high for a place like Shillong. The charge here is 8 annas per unit and excluding the rebate it comes to 5 annas per unit. Though here the power is generated from the natural source, that is, hydro-electricity, yet the charge is higher than in Calcutta and therefore we can say that a great deal of profiteering is done by the concern much to the inconvenience of the consumers. This being a capital town where the Government offices and buildings, etc., are located, at least in the matter of electricity this town should be well provided. As there is a feeling of bitterness that this private concern has failed in its duty and obligation, Government should take proper measures to nationalise this Hydro-electric supply at Shillong so as to give the consumers regular supply of electricity at a much cheaper rate.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.56,00,000 under Grant No.52, Major head—81.—A.—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes, Minor head—I.—Hydro-Electric Schemes (total), at page 554 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,98,800 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reasons given by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, for nationalising the Electricity concern at Shillong appears to have been based on correct appreciation of facts as far as supply of current is concerned. But I would like to bring to the notice of the House that the concern has been trying to improve the supply position and for this they have already secured from the Finance Corporation the required fund. Accidentally the other day due to the misfortune of the concern a generator of 250 K.W. got burnt and therefore the difficulties of these days, which have been referred to by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, are temporary one. The concern on the next day of the accident sent a man to Calcutta to bring some experts to see whether the generator that has been burnt can be immediately repaired or not. Owing to that accident we are getting the present day difficulties. To inform generally they have already constructed a new channel to add to the force of the water power and brought the pipes which are necessary for them. If the generator can be repaired, the present difficulties will go and when the new pipes will be fitted, the supply position of this con-

cern will improve. Mr. Bhattacharyya has pointed out another reason for urgently nationalising the concern. He has said that the rate charged by this concern is much higher than the rates charged in Calcutta. Though the supply here is made through hydro-power, I would like to inform him that there is no concern in India which has been giving power at a lesser rate than the rates charged by the Calcutta concern. Therefore, Sir I would like to say that the comparison of the rates charged by the Shillong concern with that of the Calcutta concern is not a proper one. The statement made by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, that the concern is supplying current through the help of hydro-power alone is not correct. They have already installed a diesel set for generating the power. Another thing I would like to say is this. In this very House, Sir, one hon. Member has said that inspite of increasing the consumption of power on *per capita* basis, the consumption has gone down as a whole. It is for that reason, Sir, we are trying to introduce power in some areas where there is no power at all at present. Therefore, Sir, we have made some provision in the current year and making provision for the next year also to start some schemes departmentally and to give effect to these schemes. In the meantime we have increased our staff. When we shall be able to give effect to these schemes and start supply of electricity from those concerns, we will be in a position to consider the case of nationalisation of this concern also. I would, therefore, request my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, to wait for some time and withdraw his Cut Motion.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: On a point of information, Sir. When is the license due to expire?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): There is yet 10 to 12 years more.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Shall we have to wait till then?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): No, I don't say that.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: In view of the assurance given by the Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

(The Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

That the provision of Rs.17,00,000 under Grant No.52, Major head—81.—A.—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes, Minor head—I.—Hydro-Electric Schemes—Sub-head—(i)—Umtro Hydro-Electric Schemes—Electricity Section (total), at page 561 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,98,800, do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, a rumour is afloat that the electricity which will be generated from the Umtro Hydro-Electric Plan will be distributed for the town of Gauhati by a private concern, an allied concern of the same body which runs the Shillong Hydro-Electric. Now, this Umtro project is a project for which the entire country had been, and is looking with a great deal of expectation—the expectation that cheap power will be available for the developement of industries, especially medium and small industries in and around Gauhati and the hardship of the consumers, who have been suffering a lot at present due to the very bad supply of electricity at Gauhati by the same concern which has been giving trouble here in Shillong, will be diminished as a result of the coming into being of the Umtro Scheme. But, Sir, there is a rumour that the same concern is going to be given the agency for distribution of power at Gauhati. If that is so, it is really very surprising and I do not think, it will be welcome by the people. When the Government has taken so much trouble and care to develop the Umtro Scheme, the people naturally expect that, when completed, Government will keep it entirely within its own control and will be supplying power to the industrialists and consumers directly. So, my purpose in moving this Motion is only to get some light from the Government as to whether there is any basis for this rumour. I shall be only too glad if this rumour is baseless and I shall be grateful to the Minister if these suspicions are allayed. With these few words, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is:

That the provision of Rs.17,00,000 under Grant No.52, Major head—81.—A.—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes, Minor head—I.—Hydro-Electric Schemes—Sub-head—(i)—Umtro Hydro-Electric Schemes, Electricity Section (total),

at page 561 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.87,98,800, do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in moving his Cut Motion, Mr. Bhattacharyya, has himself said that a rumour is afloat that the Government is going to give agency for the distribution of the power from Umtro to the existing concern at Gauhati. In fact, Sir, till now no decision has been made to that effect. But it is a fact that when assesment of consumption of the Umtro power was made, we took into consideration the power that will be necessary for the Gauhati town and we have therefore imposed a condition in the licence of the Gauhati electricity concern that if Government decides to give bulk power to them, they will have to take it of course at the rate not below the rate at which they are producing current at present. So, even if it is decided to supply them with bulk power, the public will also get that power from the Gauhati concern at a reasonable rate. Sir, under the present Act, no concern can earn more than 5 per cent of the capital investment. If power is given to them at a rate which is below the rate at which the concern is producing current now, there should be no apprehension that the company will not supply current at a reasonable rate. Sir, we are going to constitute an Electricity Board very soon and the whole matter will be left to that Board. The Board will be an independent body and they will come to a decision after due consideration of the whole matter.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Who will be the members of the Electricity Board?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): We have simply decided to establish such a Board, but we have not selected the personnel till now.

Sir, in view of what has been stated by me, I would request my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the hon. Member withdrawing his Motion?

Mr. Bhattacharyya nodded assent.

(The Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.87,98,800, 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 "81.—A.—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes."

(The Motion was adopted.)

Grant No.30

52—A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes"

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.4,37,600 (Rupees four lakhs, thirty-seven thousand and six 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 "52.—A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is:

That a sum of Rs.4,37,600 (Rupees four lakhs, thirty-seven thousand and six 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 "52.—A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes".

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I am not moving the Cut Motion.

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

Grant No.28

"50—Civil Works Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment"

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.6,79,82,700 (Rupees six crores, seventy-nine lakhs, eighty-two thousand and seven 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 "50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)",

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.6,79,82,700 (Rupees six crores, seventy-nine lakhs, eighty-two thousand and seven 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 "50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)".

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.6,79,82,700 under Grant No. 28, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plants and Establishment) at page 427 of the Budget, be reduced, by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,79,82,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of moving the Cut Motion is to discuss about Communication in Assam.

Sir, it has been said times without number in this House that one of the most important problems in Assam is the problem of communication. It is not only communication with outside India which is at a very undeveloped State but it is also the communication within Assam, which need careful attention and prompt action. We have seen that this problem has been given due emphasis by the Government for the fact that out of a Budget of Rs. 21 crores about Rs. 7 crores has been allotted for communication. But what we find that the roads, I mean, some important roads, have not received due attention of the Government and also we find even in the matter of communication there has been lopsided development. Some roads are under repair and some which need construction and extension are overlooked, whereas road construction has been localised for development in some particular areas at the cost of other areas.

Sir, if we look at the Second Five Year Plan which furnishes a list of roads which are desired to be taken up during this plan period, if we come to Kamrup and Gauhati Subdivision what do we see? We find that money has not been allotted equitably. In certain areas or certain constituencies, especially, the constituencies of some Ministers money allotted is more than in certain other constituencies. I will cite for instance. In the Gauhati from the list it is seen that Hazo-Bhoma-Okhora joining Dhamdhama, Sanchari, Seshamukh Road *via*

Ketktibari is 11 miles. Then we find Ghograpar-Tamulpuri Road—8 miles. In this way, we find that length of road mileage of certain constituencies is beyond proportion in comparison to others. In this list certain constituencies have been completely ignored. Although I am not constituency-minded but seeing glaring facts I have become constituency-minded. In the Palasbari-Rampur constituency, Batarhat-Simna Road, 3 miles is shown in the list, whereas in other constituencies 8, 10, 11 miles have been shown. This is not the solitary instance.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether these roads are selected by the Development Board or not?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: No, Sir, they are not selected by the Development Board.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): These are done by the Road Communication Board.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: It may be. It is a different thing. Every Member was asked by the Development Board to give a list of roads to be taken up during the Second Five Year Plan and according to the instructions given, at least so far as my constituency was concerned we were entitled to get 7 miles. Now, we find only 3 miles is given to my constituency, whereas, in some other constituencies 8, 10, 12 and even 14 miles have been given. It is really unfortunate, that in spite of the fact that we are trying to have even or equal development of our State, there is a tendency to make development of communication in a lopsided manner. There are certain constituencies where roads lead to Hajo or Rangiya or Marigaon but whereas because there is the South Trunk Road no necessity is seen for such roads. On the other hand, there are revenue areas and backward tribal areas, where it is not only impossible to go during the rainy season but it is not possible to go during the winter season. My suggestion is that at least in allotting money for development of roads, it is necessary to see that all areas are equally developed.

Sir, there is a road in my constituency, which also goes through the constituency of my Friend, Mr. Radhika Ram Das, namely, Palasbari-Loharghat Road which was taken over by the Public Works Department during the time of late Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi and in spite of reminders and requests

that road has not been improved at all. It is difficult to ply any vehicle in that Road. It is true that this road is called a Public Works Department road but we do not see any repair being done in that road. It is a metalled road. Of course it does not lead to Hajo or Rangiya or Morigaon. But all the same, it is a very important road. In spite of many reminders, in spite of several requests that road has not been developed. My submission is that we have not only to take up new roads, but old roads have to be looked after for repair and reconstruction, if necessary. We have to consider the question of constructing roads through those locality where the density of population is very thick.

Now, coming again to my constituency, I want to draw the attention of the Minister to that road from Batorhat to Loharghat—that road goes through so many Mouzas and so many villages which are very thickly populated—we want that that road should be taken over by the Public Works Department. Unfortunately, that was not done and as a consequence we find that it is very difficult for the people of those villages to go from one place to another. For example, the people have to take a long circuit to go from Batorhat to Loharghat.

Secondly, speaking about road development, I want to say that we are not only to allot money for the purpose but we should also see that the money so allotted is properly utilised for the purpose and work executed in that year. One defect of the Public Works Department is that they generally surrender huge sums of money every year for their inability to execute the work taken up in a particular year. So unless the Public Works Department tries its best to see that the money that is allotted is spent during that year it should not take up the work if there is paucity of personnel, paucity of supervisors, paucity of materials, etc. Take for instance, that road from Numaligarh and 6 miles beyond—which falls in Shri Kheria's constituency—that road which has been taken up three years ago but up till now it has not been black-topped. I do not know why it will take such a long time to black-top it. Then again, take that road from Numaligarh to Garampani—I mean the Numaligarh -Dimapur Road., that portion of the road that side of Numaligarh and this side of Garampani is deteriorating (*A voice from the Treasury Benches*—that is a national highway).....it does not matter, but as I said, for lack of repair, for lack of supervision, that road will have no value at all as a national highway.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you mean that Road from Numaligarh to Dimapur, there is a diversion being constructed there.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Yes, I mean that road, Sir, but that diversion is badly damaged and it needs immediate attention.

Then, Sir, coming to the North Trunk Road, this North Trunk Road also needs immediate repair and reconstruction and if there is some money allotted for this road, my submission is that this road should be taken up immediately, otherwise it will be very difficult for people to use that road.

Another important thing about communication is with regard to the Ferries between Gauhati and North Gauhati, between Goalpara and Jogighopa, and also the ferry to Kamalabari. We find here a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs has been allotted for purchase of ferries for these places.....

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Ferries for these routes have already been ordered.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : It may be, Sir, but my submission is that unless these ferries are remodelled or new ferries are placed, it will be very difficult for the people.

Then about the charges by these ferries: it is very difficult to understand the different charges of these ferries. For example, if you take a motor car from Gauhati to North Gauhati the charge is Rs.3 for one car whereas if you take the same car from Goalpara to Jogighopa the charge is Rs.25 or so. I do not know on what basis these charges are fixed. It may be that at one time the ferry to Jogighopa from Pancharatna had to travel five miles, but now it does not go that much because it goes from Goalpara.....

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): During the rainy season it goes always from Pancharatna but only in the winter it goes from Goalpara.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Anyway, it is difficult to understand the difference in these ferry charges. As I have said, it is only Rs.3 from Gauhati to North Gauhati but why Rs. 24, i.e., Rs.12 for going to that side and Rs.12 for coming back. At least we must know the reasons for this difference.

Besides that, there should also be a sincere attempt to make these ferry journeys convenient for the travelling public. In this connection let me cite an instance—in this Gauhati-North Gauhati ferry. Sir, it is very inconvenient for the people to go because with luggage, cars, trucks and what not, the people are all crammed like animals and there is scarcely a standing space. It is not possible to go with some amount of decency in this ferry. My submission is that unless these things are properly looked into the people will not get comfort when travelling in these ferries. So I would request the Minister-in-charge to take up the question of remodelling the old ferries or place new ferries under State supervision.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Motion moved is, that the total provision of Rs.6,79,82,700 under Grant No.28, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plants and Establishment), at page 427 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant Rs.6,79,82,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in answer to unstarred question No.410 of my hon. Friend, Shri Baliram Das, which was put on the 30th July, 1954, the hon'ble Minister was pleased to state that the members of the Subordinate Engineering Services are not promoted to the post of Executive Engineer, but as Assistant Engineer, and then as Executive Engineer, if found suitable.

The Assam Engineering Service Rules say under Rule 12 which runs as follows:—

“A direct recruit to Class I or II shall be on probation for two years. He will be confirmed in the appointment when he has completed the period of probation satisfactorily and has passed such language examinations as may be prescribed by the Governor and when the Governor is satisfied that he is fit for confirmation.”

Then Rule 13 runs as follows:—

“In order to qualify for his second increment a direct recruit to Class I or II must pass, within three years of the date of his appointment, the professional examination under the rules

which are from time to time laid down by the Governor of Assam. After passing the examination he will be entitled to draw pay at the rate corresponding to his position in the time scale."

An Assistant Engineer in the temporary cadre when promoted will be treated as a direct recruit for the purpose of Rules 12 and 13 as stated above.

Sir, while Mr. Goswami has stated that there is some sort of local feeling or constituency mindedness in the matter of allocation of roads, etc., my contention is that there is not only constituency mindedness in the matter of allocation of roads, but also in the matter of allocation of appointments there is family mindedness. We have seen clear violation of the rules and also changing of Government policy since 1951. If the members sitting on the opposite side do not like to call it "favouritism", I would like to call it, "blood is thicker than water" policy. We have seen for example that in the year 1951, three persons were appointed as temporary Assistant Engineers and out of them one gentleman in 1952 was put on probation with retrospective effect and was confirmed subsequently in the year 1953. Sir, as a matter of fact, as a direct recruit he did not pass the departmental examination, and professional examination as required under Rules 12 and 13.

Now, Sir, it is clear that after regular interview when he was appointed directly he is to pass the departmental examination and the professional examination of the Public Works Department. From the circulars issued by the Public Works Department, it is clear that the passing of the departmental examination and the professional examination, are the two conditions precedent for confirmation. This was not followed in the case of this gentleman. He could only pass the departmental examination in the year 1955 although he was given retrospective effect from the year 1951. If such a thing is allowed to happen and the rules are allowed to be slackened, naturally there will be a feeling of discontent and frustration amongst other officers if promotion is given on a special privilege. We have seen that there have been many such cases of breach of rules. We have seen that this gentleman has superseded as many as 15 officers who were senior to him. I do not propose to give their names unless and until I am challenged.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): I challenge everything.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya, this is a Cut Motion to raise a general discussion and then the Minister-in-charge is to reply.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, if I am not taking amiss, I shall give the names.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The point is in raising a general discussion, it has become the habit of the modern legislators to rove in for other points. This is not a correct procedure. So in future, I hope our hon. Members will try to refer to the matter on which they will speak.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, I am very much obliged for this direction. We have also been feeling that when any specific matter is raised we should create the precedent by referring to the matter on which we want to speak.

Sir, as a matter of fact, I have referred to this question not to make any insinuation against any officer. I have said that in the matter of appointment there should always be one rule, and that should be applicable to all. There should be no discrimination. There should be no favouritism and nepotism whatsoever. I have got instances at my disposal. I have got the Gazette and other relevant papers to show everything. So my request to the Government is that whatsoever happened in the past I hope and trust, will not happen in future. The Government should very scrupulously follow the rules and procedure.

The second point on which I want to draw the attention of the Minister and the entire Government is with regard to the question of Departmental and Professional Examinations. One set of rules and procedure should be followed in all cases. If it is strict in one Department and is slack in another, then naturally the officers working in the former will have some grievances.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, Departmental Examination, etc., does not come in here.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, here in Rule 13 it is stated—"In order to qualify for his second increment, a direct recruit to Class I or II must pass, within three years of the date of his appointment, the professional examination under the rules which are from time to time laid down by the Governor of Assam. After passing this examination he will be entitled to draw pay at the rate corresponding to his position in the time scale." These are Rules 12 and 13 of the Assam Engineering Service Rules, and as such the question comes in here. Then in this connection I beg to refer to another letter—letter No. 475-E. In that letter it was said that all Executive Engineers and Public Works Department Disbursers in Assam who were still liable to pass the departmental and professional examinations should pass these examinations as a condition to further promotion and to hold the present post. So it is not only necessary for further promotion but also for holding the present post.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, he is not relevant at all. It comes under the head—Establishment, etc.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: If I am not relevant, Sir, then I do not want to proceed further on this point. I am grateful to the Minister for pointing this out to me. That should have been pointed out to me earlier. I am sorry I have taken the valuable time of the House.

Sir, I want to point out another thing and that is with regard to the question of giving contract, specially with regard to the construction of roads. We find that there is some amount of weightage and some amount of favouritism. I know in the Executive Engineers' Divisions of North Kamrup and Gauhati, the Public Works Department Manual is more violated than followed. For example, for earth-work and other works according to rules there should be check measurement by the Executive Engineers themselves. A certain percentage, it is something like 20 per cent, is to be measured by the Executive Engineer according to the rules. But in case of the Gauhati Division, we have seen in the Audit report which was placed in this House in the last Session that it came up to 1 per cent and in case of North Kamrup Division it came up to 11 per cent. So it is found there is actually no proper supervision by the Executive Engineers concerned over the work done and that have led to many sorts of falsification and squandering away of public money.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Can you point out specific cases?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Why should I ? The Audit Report itself is there. The Accountant General has pointed out this irregularity. The Report is a public document now. The Audit Report pointed out that the Executive Engineers had given an incorrect statement.

Now, secondly, we find that some new contractors have sprung up. They pose themselves as Congress Leaders. In Paschimburigog Mauza all the Congress Leaders are contractors and all the contractors are Congress Leaders (*Laughter*). So what happens? The Officers are always frightened. If they are strict with the contractor, they fear that because of their position in the party in power they will be able to do a lot of mischief to them in the shape of effecting their transfer and by putting them to other difficulties. After all, the officers are human beings. As my Friend, Shri Khakhlari said the other day, no body wants to incur the displeasure of his superiors which may result in their transfers and other inconvenience, etc. (*Laughter*) The result is that when there is an earth work for one lakh cft. the Bill is got passed for 7 lakhs.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think you should give specific cases.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : These are mentioned in the Audit Report, Sir. The Minister cannot challenge my statement as it has been mentioned in the Audit Report. This sort of falsification, wrong measurement and other malpractices are rampant and there is another thing in the matter of rate also. When the tender is given, competitive tenders are given. Now suppose a tender quoting a lower rate say at Rs. 22 per 1000 cft. is accepted, then we find that the man sends petition and deputations and gives pressure on the Minister or others concerned.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): For the information of the House, I can tell that the Minister has no power to increase the rate.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Of course, the Minister may not do it himself. He may tell the man to go to that particular officer, and there may be some verbal assurances also. So what do we find ? That rate is raised from Rs.22 to Rs.27 on the plea that that particular place is a difficult one and so on.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please give specific cases.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I hope the Minister himself knows.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): No, no.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Then let me say a few instances. It was so in case of almost all the contractors of Pashchimburigog such as Bujor Barua, Chaudhury, Lahkar (*Laughter*). Everyone of them raised their rate from Rs.22 to Rs.27. I do not like to give the details. I do not like to refer to the cases of persons who are not here.

But if the Minister consults his file, he will see whether or not these rates were changed or enhanced, and also he will find whether I am telling the truth to the House or not. The point is, Sir, there should be stricter supervision, stricter control and it should be seen that some people may not misguide or deceive the Government.

Now, Sir, with regard to 'witness'. At the time of doing some earthwork during the dry season, some contractors do not remove the witnesses on the ground that measurement has not been done. Then when these witnesses go under water during the rainy season measurements are taken and when the next dry season comes, these witnesses are again measured on the strength of which fresh payments are made.

Sir, these things have been going on every where and I hope and trust and pray that Government will see that these 'witnesses' are measured as soon as the work is done and then properly remove them so that public money may not be wasted.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Should the House continue?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): What about the other items, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For the information of the House, guillotine is applicable only on the last day of the Grant.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Thursday the 29th March, 1956.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,

Legislative Assembly, Assam.

SHILLONG:
The 20th February 1957.

George J.P.

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. Cambay & Co., 6 and 8/2, Hastings Street, Calcutta.
5. Messrs. D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co., 103, Meadow Street, Fort, Post Box No.187, Bombay.
6. The Indian School Supply Depot, 309, Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta.
7. The City Book Company, Post Box No.283 Madras.
8. The Director, The Book Company, Limited, Book Sellers and Stationers, 4/4A, College Square, Calcutta.
9. The Manager, The Imperial Publishing Co., 99, Ry. Road, Lahore.
10. Messrs. Chapala Book Stall, Shillong.
11. Messrs. 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.