

Proceedings of the Second Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled after the Second 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 5th November, 1957.

P R E S E N T

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B.A., LL.B., Speaker, in the Chair, the eight Ministers, the eight Deputy Ministers and seventy-nine Members.

Complaint about the acoustic arrangement inside the Assembly Chamber

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the mike system arrangement meant for the hon. Members getting seats on this side of the House including the Tribal Members on the back benches, we are finding it inconvenient to speak on the mike according to the present arrangement. So, I would like to submit that the Hon'ble Speaker will kindly see his way to provide at least one mike for each bench.

Mr. SPEAKER : I am grateful to the hon. Member for having brought to the notice of this House about the inconvenience of speaking on the mike according to the present arrangement. Acoustics of this House are as bad as they could be. In fact they are half a century old. Unless we bring about a thorough overhaul and adopt some modern method, *viz.*, canal system which is used in Lok Sabha, House of Lords and House of Commons, etc., the problem of acoustics of this House will not be solved. Provision of additional loud speakers will not be heavy, but that will not help unless the whole acoustic system is changed. For the time being, the hon. Members will have to face this inconvenience. In future we hope to provide modern acoustics which would be a little bit expensive.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) : Sir, may I add a few words in this connection ? In fact the hon. Speaker put forward certain proposals for improvement

of the acoustics of this House. The proposals are a little bit expensive considering our present financial position. So, the matter has to be put off till we are financially a little more prosperous,

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions *Re:* The Splitting up of the Gauhati Sub-divisional School Board

Sbri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps to split up the Gauhati Subdivisional School Board into three units, Gauhati, Rangiya and Nalbari as the present Gauhati School Board has become unwieldy in management and inefficient in supervision and inspection.

I beg to submit along with it that this resolution has become necessary in view of the fact that the present Gauhati Subdivisional School Board has become unwieldy. As a matter of fact if the standard of education of the State is to be improved the primary education which is considered to be the basic stage of our educational system must be improved. In order to improve from the primary stage it requires constant vigilance and frequent inspection and supervision of the primary schools from the inspecting staff. It would be evident from the facts mentioned below as to why the present Gauhati Subdivisional School Board has become unwieldy and should be split up.

At present the total number of schools under the School Board is 1833. Out of it, there are 1484 Lower Primary Schools, 16 junior basic Schools, 3 senior basic schools, urban basic schools 6, Middle Vernacular schools 109, Venture Middle Vernacular 4, and Middle English and Madrassa 110. In addition there are some Venture schools which come to near about 125. Further if we consider the number of teachers which the school Board has provided, the total number will be 2,837—2,280 for Lower Primary schools, 490 for Middle Vernacular schools, and 67 for basic schools. In addition to this if we consider the number of teachers that will be appointed in the venture schools, then it will come near 3,000 in number. The number of teachers employed in the Middle English and Madrassa is not included here.

Then as regards the unwieldiness of the School Board the House will see if we consider the total amount of the budget for the purpose. The total amount as regards the teachers' pay Rs. 13,85,771 for Lower Primary schools, and the teachers' pay for Middle Vernacular schools Rs. 3,42,198. So, altogether the School Board has to distribute as pay for teachers Rs. 17,27,969. In addition the School Board has some other functions which it is has to perform.

Then again the School Board has to pay scholarships, and the number of scholarships come to 360 per month. So, if the teachers are to be paid regularly then two clerks will have to be appointed for simply writing Money Orders. From all these facts and figures it is clear that it is difficult, or it will not be feasible for the School Board to manage the functions of the School Board efficiently with such a great number of schools.

There are 8 Sub-Inspector circles and the number of Lower Primary and Middle Vernacular Schools given in Gauhati subdivision stands as follows :—

Gauhati	..	..	..	..	207
Palashbari	..	..	..	..	136
Boko	..	..	..	..	228

So, taking Gauhati as one Unit, altogether 571 schools come under this Unit. Then if we create another unit at Nalbari comprising Nalbari and Tihu Circles, there would be 526 schools under it and the third unit comprising Rangiya, Hazo and Kamalpur Circles will have 553 schools under it. So, I have suggested these three units, keeping in view of the fact that the number of schools will be more or less evenly distributed. In view of this fact, I place the resolution and hope that it would be accepted by the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is : “ This Assembly is opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps to split up Gauhati Subdivisional School Board in the three units, Gauhati, Rangiya and Nalbari as the present Gauhati School Board has become unwidly in management and inefficient in supervision and inspection.”

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : While considering the question of splitting up the Gauhati Subdivisional School Board, I would request the Government to take up also the question of different School Boards in Assam together, instead of considering the case of Gauhati alone. The Gauhati Subdivision is no doubt advanced in

education and its population will be about 10 lakhs and the number of Lower Primary schools is about two thousand which is much higher than in our other Subdivisions with almost equal number of population. If the matter is considered according to the number of schools alone, perhaps it will not be proper for the other Subdivisions where the number of population is higher and the number of schools is lesser. As for instance, in Dibrugarh Subdivision the population will not be less than 8 lakhs while the number of Lower Primary schools is less than one thousand. To educate our people is the primary responsibility of the State and the State should come up to educate our children at least at the primary stage. If the number of schools is less in one Subdivision, I think, it is up to the Government to encourage the people and sanction grants to the venture schools. In Dibrugarh Subdivision I find villages where there are no Lower Primary schools within a radius of 5 miles whereas we are fortunate in some parts of Assam to have several High Schools even in the rural areas within a radius of 5 miles.

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, Order. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to rule 97 of the Assembly Rules which says, "The discussion of a resolution shall be strictly limited to the subject of the resolution". The subject of this resolution happens to be the splitting up of the Gauhati Subdivisional School Board rather than the number of schools in Dibrugarh Subdivision.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps I was discussing the point only by way of reference. However, I would request the Government to take into consideration the cases of all the School Boards of Assam together while they consider the case of Gauhati. With these few words I support the resolution and like to conclude my speech.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by my friend, Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami. From the statistical figures given by my friend it is evident that the Gauhati Subdivisional School Board is becoming unwieldy for management in all respects. The number of schools in other Subdivisions is much less and even with lesser number of schools they have their School Boards. In certain Subdivisions the number of schools will not be more than 400 or 500 where as in the Gauhati Subdivision where the number of schools will be more than two thousand, all

these schools are to be managed by only one School Board. As regards supervision, as regards payment to teachers and other aspects, it is not at all possible for the limited strength of inspecting staff to have an effective control. So, it was the cry of the people of Gauhati Subdivision that the Gauhati School Board should be split up into three School Boards. But before going to speak of these three school boards I would like to point out one thing. In the last Session of the Assembly there was a move that the Gauhati School Board should be split up into two, but if it is split up into three, I have no objection. When the Marigaon School Board of Nowgaon was constituted there was a proposal that there will be one School Board also at Rangiya. That was finally decided but Government have not yet transacted it into action. (Shri Motiram Bora: Not finally decided). The decision was there but the order was not issued to that effect. In view of this I request the Government to take up the question of splitting up the Gauhati School Board into three units and I want that Rangiya should be one of these three units.

As regards the location of the tribal population, if we refer to the statistics in our Census Report it will be evident that the tribal population in Rangiya Police Station is the highest. Then as Rangiya was in the position of having this School Board even before moving this resolution I would request the Government to consider the case of Rangiya at the time of splitting up the Gauhati School Board into three or two. With these words I support the resolution.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by my friend, Shri Goswami, that immediate steps be taken to split up the Gauhati Subdivisional School Board into three units, one at Gauhati, one at Rangiya and one at Nalbari. Supporting this resolution I would like to add one important point to it. The resolution says that at present the Gauhati School Board is unwieldy in management. Why is it unwieldy in management? When the proposal of the School Board was there we expected that after the formation of the School Board, management of the schools would be better. But after the formation of the School Board that expectation has been shattered to the ground, because the management of the schools is going from bad to worse at the present time. Nobody expects it to be so. If we go into the school buildings we will find that almost all school houses are broken, or half broken. Some of the roofs of these school houses are without any cover with the result

that during the rainy season the schools can not be run properly. In some schools the walls are badly damaged, and in some schools there are no black-boards, no maps which are most important for teaching the pupils. And also one will find that in many schools the teachers come very late and if report is submitted to the School Board, proper action is not taken. So what is stated in the Resolution is proper, that is, that the School Board of Gauhati has become unwieldy. If we ask the School Board authorities about such mismanagement and inefficiency, the reply is that the number of schools is so high that it is not possible on their part to run the schools properly.

Now, regarding inefficiency in supervision and inspection, also we find that in the matter of supervision and inspection the School Board of Gauhati Subdivision has proved its failure totally. During the last Cyclone and flood many people from the distant villages approached the Chairman of the School Board to go at least once to their areas to see the institutions which were badly damaged both by flood and by cyclone, but it is sad to say that the Chairman of the School Board did not go even once to see the damaged school buildings. Sir, prior to the formation of School Boards although there were some irregularities regarding supervision and inspection, yet there were some sort of regularities. But after the formation of the School Boards, it is my own experience that the Schools are not properly inspected due to which the pupils suffer and when we approach the School Board regarding these irregularities in the inspection and supervision it is said that they are unable to inspect or supervise so many schools at a time. So, the Resolution as brought by my friend is proper about splitting up of the Gauhati School Board into three units.

Then, Sir, along with this I beg to submit that in the matter of appointment or nomination of the Chairman of the School Board it should be..... (*Voices*—from the Treasury Benches. That is not relevant).....

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. Will that be relevant to the context of the Resolution ?

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : It is relevant, Sir. I have pointed out this just to say that the appointment or nomination of a Chairman should be done in a proper way, that is, a person should be selected or nominated from amongst experienced educationists because as mentioned in this Resolution, inefficiency may not only be due to the huge number of schools but it may be also due to the fact that ins-

pection and supervision of the schools is left to persons without proper experience in education and for that inspection and supervision of schools may not be done properly. So, Sir, in this aspect of the matter also, as I have just said, I submit to the House through you, Sir, that appointment and nomination of Chairman of the School Boards should be from amongst the experienced educationists.

Regarding splitting up of the Gauhati School Board, I would like to add one word. Of course, I have no personal knowledge in this but from the reports received from school teachers that whenever some teacher raises any objection against the objectionable work of the School Board the poor teacher is immediately transferred to such distant places that it is not possible on his part to manage with the meagre amount he draws as his salary. Sir, it is known that many teachers supplement their income by taking to cultivation. So, if they are transferred to distant places, how can.....

Mr. SPEAKER : I do not think that that will be relevant here. The hon. Member was speaking about splitting up of the School Board for convenience of the work of teaching, but if with that the question of transfer of teachers is also taken up it will be going a bit too far, So, I feel that would be out of order.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : All right Sir,. Now to conclude, I beg to submit that I support this resolution that immediate steps should be taken to split up the Gauhati School Board into three separate units.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, although I do not support this Resolution entirely, I support the principle of this Resolution. It is true that the Gauhati School Board has become too much unwieldy for the Secretary of the Board to supervise all the schools properly, and as a result of that inefficient supervision the standard of education in most of the schools has deteriorated much. Moreover as the number of teachers is much larger, it is not possible for the Secretary of the School Board to make payments regularly. But at the same time I want to point out one thing that it is mentioned here that the School Boards should be located at Gauhati, Rangiya and Nalbari, but I feel that this should be left to the Department concerned to see that number of schools one Deputy Inspector of Schools can manage and then to split up the School Board if necessary

even to four units. I said this because I find that in South Kamrup also there is a necessity of a separate School Board because there are sufficient number of schools there. So, as I said, I support the principle of this Resolution but I do not support the entire Resolution and I submit that it should be left to the Department concerned to see what number of schools, a Deputy Inspector can manage and then to split up the School Board in as many units as is found necessary even to 3 or 4 or 5. With this modification I support the resolution.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by my friend, Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami. I do not propose to move any amendment. All that I want to say is particularly about the location. As stated by my friend, Mr. Das, I leave the whole thing for consideration of the department. But I want to point out one thing. Before the formation of a separate School Board at Marigaon, it was proposed by the department to start one separate School Board for Nalbari. Nalbari and Barama being the outlying areas of the Gauhati Subdivision, perhaps a separate School Board was considered necessary. It was, however, delayed although the reason for the delay is not known to us. As regards the number of Tribal Population as mentioned by my friend, Shri Baikuntha Das, I beg to point out that Barama is a thickly populated tribal area as will be evident from the fact that two tribal M.L.As of this Assembly come from one double Member constituency of this area. I, therefore, feel that this question of splitting up of the Gauhati School Board has now become an imperative necessity. Apart from this, the unwieldy nature of the Gauhati School Board has resulted in mismanagement of the Gauhati School Board, which must be known to the department. I do not like to go into such other things as inefficiency, etc., as it does not come under the purview of the resolution under discussion. But I request the Government not to vacillate any longer to implement this resolution which has been the outcome of a long-felt necessity of the local public. Any further delay in the matter of implementation of this resolution, I am afraid, will only create more complication in the efficient management of the School Board itself. I want in this connection to mention that unless the enormous difficulties experienced both by the teachers in getting their pay and other requirements and remuneration and the local public in the matter of education of their little children due particularly to the mismanagement of the existing Board, which may increase gradually, are removed immediately by splitting

up the Gauhati School Board, I am afraid, occasion may arise when it will be necessary to super-audit the accounts and supersede the whole board. So, before it is too late, I would request Government to take immediate steps to split up the Gauhati School Board in to three if not more.

With these few words, Sir, I support the resolution moved by my Friend, Shri Goswami.

Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Patacharkuchi) :

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ মাননীয় সদস্য, শ্ৰীযুত শৰৎচন্দ্ৰ গোস্বামী দেৱে গুৱাহাটী মহকুমা স্কুলবোৰ্ডখন তিনি ভাগত বিভক্ত কৰিবলৈ যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ আজিৰ এই সদনত উপস্থাপিত কৰিছে, তাক মই সৰ্বান্তঃকৰণে সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ থিয় দিছো, কিয়নো গুৱাহাটী মহকুমা স্কুলবোৰ্ডখনৰ পৰিধি বৰ বহল আৰু তাৰ ভিতৰত যিবিলাক স্কুল পৰিছে তাৰ পৰিচালনাৰ অসুবিধা আৰু পৰিদৰ্শন নোহোৱাৰ কাৰণে দিনক দিনে সেই স্কুলবিলাক ঠন ধৰি উঠক চাৰি বেয়াৰ ফালেহে বেচি ঢাল লৈছে আৰু শিক্ষাৰ মানদণ্ড তললৈহে নামিছে। সেইকাৰণে শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী দেৱে এই বৰ্ডখন সংশোধন কৰি তিনিটা বিভাগত বিভক্ত কৰিবলৈ যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে সেইটো সমৰ্থোপযোগী হৈছে। কিয়নো চৰকাৰৰ এটা বিভাগ উন্নত কৰিবলৈ হলে তাৰ পৰিদৰ্শনৰ ভাল ব্যৱস্থা থাকিবই লাগিব আৰু সেই কাৰণেই এই স্কুলবিভাগটোৰ উন্নতিৰ হকে ভাল পৰিদৰ্শনৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে হাতত লবই লাগিব আৰু তাৰ কাৰণে প্ৰয়োজন হলে 'চাৰ্ভে কৰি' এই বৰ্ডৰ ইউনিট বঢ়াবৰ কাৰণে চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগিব। এনে কৰিলেহে মহকুমাৰ যিবিলাক ভিতৰুৱা অঞ্চল তাৰ শিক্ষা বিষয়ত উন্নতি হব। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে আমাৰ বাক্সা অঞ্চল এটা জনজাতি অঞ্চল— এই অঞ্চল টাইবেল প্ৰধান ঠাই। এই অঞ্চলত থকা স্কুলবিলাকৰ অৱস্থা অত্যন্ত শোকাবলী। এই স্কুলবিলাকত চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰপৰা নিয়মিত পৰিদৰ্শনৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা নোহোৱাত স্কুলবিলাক ভাগিচিগি গৈছে। স্কুলত লৰা-ছোৱালী পঢ়াবৰ কাৰণে এখন 'ব্লক-বৰ্ড' নাই, এখন মেপ নাই—'গুৰু'টো দূৰৰে কথা। স্কুলৰ কাৰণে যিবিলাক আহিলা-পাতিৰ প্ৰয়োজন তাৰ নামমাত্ৰ নাই বুলিলেও বেচি কোৱা নহয়। তাৰোপৰি শিক্ষক বহিবলৈ আসন নাই, লৰা-ছোৱালী বহিবলৈ বেঞ্চ আৰু ডেকাৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা নাই। এই ফাণিচাৰ বিলাক কেতিয়াবা আনিবলৈ হলেও সদৰ গুৱাহাটীলৈ স্কুলৰ চেক্ৰেটাৰী অথবা শিক্ষক আহি নিজৰ পইচা খৰচ কৰিব লগাত পৰে। তাৰোপৰি যাতায়াতৰ আৰু যানবাহনৰ অসুবিধাৰ হেতু দূৰত্ব অনুসৰি বহু টকা ব্যয় কৰিবলগীয়া হয়। ইয়াৰ ফলত যিবিলাক বস্ত্ৰ তৈয়াৰ কৰোৱা হয় তাৰ দাম দুগুণতকৈও অধিক হয়। এইবিলাক কাৰণত স্কুলৰ আহিলাপাতি যোগাৰ নহয় আৰু লৰা-ছোৱালীৰ পঢ়াশুনাত অসুবিধা হয় আৰু ইয়াৰ খৰচ বহুত সময়ত বাইজেই বহন কৰিবলগা হয়। এনেবিলাক অসুবিধালৈ চকু ৰাখি এই মহকুমা স্কুলবোৰ খন বিভক্ত হোৱা অত্যন্ত প্ৰয়োজন আৰু প্ৰয়োজন হলে অতিৰিক্ত ভাৱে স্কুলপৰিদৰ্শক সকলৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি কৰিব লাগে।

তাৰ পিচত মই টিহ 'চাৰ্কেল'ৰ কথা কওঁ। ইয়াত পাঠশালা স্কুল ২১১ খন; মজলীয়া অসমীয়া (Middle Vernacular) স্কুল ১৩ খন, 'বেচিক' স্কুল ৭ খন আৰু ভেনচাৰ' স্কুল ১৯ খন লৈ মুঠ ২৫০ খন স্কুল আছে। এই স্কুলবিলাক মহকুমাৰ বিভিন্ন ভিতৰুৱা অঞ্চল বিলাকত অৱস্থিত আৰু অনেক সময়ত নানা কাৰণত ইয়াৰ লৰা-ছোৱালী বিলাকে আন ঠাইলৈ চলাচল কৰিব নোৱাৰে। তাৰ কাৰণ বাৰিষা নানান জান-জুৰিত পানী হয় আৰু ৰাস্তা-ঘাটৰ অসুবিধাত আন ঠাইলৈ ওলাব নোৱাৰা অৱস্থা হয়, আনকি

গাৱৰপৰা আধা মাইল দূৰৰ স্কুললৈও যাব নোৱাৰা হয়। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰো যে, বৰমা-বাংলা অঞ্চলতো অতিৰিক্ত এখন শিক্ষা শাখাবৰ্ড গঠন কৰিব লাগে।

ইয়াৰ পাচত মই স্কুলবিলাকৰ 'গ্ৰাণ্ট'ৰ সম্বন্ধে কওঁ যে, এই 'নানৰেকাৰিং' 'গ্ৰাণ্ট' বিলাক ঠিকমতে বিতৰণ হোৱা নাই আৰু দেখা গৈছে কিছুমান অনুপযুক্ত স্কুলে পাইছে আৰু কিছুমান উপযুক্ত স্কুলেও পোৱা নাই আৰু ইয়াৰ পৰিমাণ কম হৈছে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে চকু দিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো আৰু প্ৰয়োজন বুজি শিক্ষাক্ষেত্ৰত কৰ্মচাৰী বাবু বুলি আশা কৰিলো। ইয়াকে কৈ মই শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী দেৱৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো সৰ্বাস্তঃকৰণেৰে সমৰ্থন জনালো।

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH (Teok) : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় সদস্য শ্ৰীশৰৎচন্দ্ৰ গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ এই সদনত উপস্থাপিত কৰিছে তাৰ মূল উদ্দেশ্যটো মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছো। এই প্ৰস্তাৱ অনুসাৰে দেখা যায় যে প্ৰতি থানা এলেকাতে এটা এটা স্কুলবৰ্ড হ'ব লাগে।

(Voices:— No, no.) সেইটো নহয়।

কিয়নো নলবাৰী এটা থানা, বঙিয়া এটা থানা। এতিয়া প্ৰস্তাৱ অনুযায়ী গুৱাহাটী নলবাৰী, বঙিয়া এই এটা থানাত স্কুলবৰ্ড পৃথক পৃথক ভাৱে গঠন কৰি দিবলৈ কোৱা হৈছে। সেই কাৰণেই মই থানাই থানাই স্কুলবৰ্ড হোৱাৰ কথা উদ্দেশ্য কৰিছে বুলি কৈছো। যিহওক বৰ্তমান আমাৰ দেশৰ শিক্ষাক্ষেত্ৰ যিমান বহল হৈ গৈছে সেই অনুপাতে কৰ্মচাৰীৰ সংখ্যা পৰিমাণ অনুযায়ী বঢ়া নাই। সেইকাৰণে দেখা যায় চৰকাৰে প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষাৰ বাবে যি টকা খৰছ কৰিছে সেই টকা ভাল বকমে ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা হৈছে নে নাই তাৰ তত্ত্বাৱধান বা ভাল পৰিদৰ্শন হোৱাত বেমেজালি ঘটিছে। বৰ্তমানে আমি দেখিবলৈ পাওঁ প্ৰত্যেক স্কুলবৰ্ড অফিচৰ সমুখত ১০-৩০ৰ পৰা ৪-৩০লৈকে কাম বিচাৰি অহা লৰা-ছোৱালীয়ে ভৰি থাকে। তেওঁলোকৰ আমনি আৰু আত্মকালৰ ফলতেই অফিচাৰ সকলৰ কাম কৰাত বহুত অসুবিধা হয়। গতিকেই জিলা বৰ্ডৰ অফিচৰ কাম পাতলাবৰ কাৰণে সুবিধা অনুযায়ী স্কুলবৰ্ডৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি কৰি দিয়া উচিত। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও স্কুলবৰ্ড বিলাক ডাঙৰহোৱাৰ কাৰণে আৰু স্কুলৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি হোৱাত, স্কুলবিলাকে বৰ্ডৰ কৰ্তৃপক্ষৰপৰা যথা সময়ত সহায় নেপায় আৰু নিৰ্দিষ্ট সময়ত দৰমহা আদিও নেপায়। প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা বাধ্যতামূলক হোৱাত স্কুলৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি হৈ গৈছে আৰু শিক্ষক আৰু শিক্ষয়ত্ৰীৰ কাম বিচৰা লোকৰ সংখ্যাও বৃদ্ধি হৈ গৈছে।

(Voices—আপ ঠিক কহতা হৈঁ।)

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH (Teok) : মই নিজে দেখিছো। আমাৰ দেশত (Middle English, Middle Vernacular, High School) আদি শিক্ষা অনুষ্ঠান বিলাকদিনক দিনে বাঢ়ি গৈছে আৰু লৰা-ছোৱালী বিলাকে Class IX, X, লৈকে পঢ়ি চাকৰী বিচাৰি স্কুল বৰ্ডৰ ওচৰ পায়হি। Under Matric সকলৰ কাৰণে এই বৰ্ডৰ আৰু বাচ কণ্ঠস্থৰ চাকৰী যোগ্যতা অনুযায়ী উপযুক্ত সেই কাৰণেই ইয়াতে চাকৰী বিচৰা লোকৰ ভীৰ খুব বেচি। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও স্কুলবৰ্ডবোৰ এহত দুৰে দৰে থকাৰ বাবে শিক্ষক সকলে দৰমহা পোৱাত বহুত দেৰী হয় এইটো

সকলোৰেই জনা কথা। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মই মাজুলীৰ কথা কব পাৰো। যোৰহাট মহ-
কুমাৰ বৃদ্ধপুত্ৰই দুভাগ কৰি যোৱাত মাজুলীৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ অৱস্থা সময়ত অতি সঙ্কট-
জনক হৈ পৰে। বাৰিষাকালত তেওঁবিলাক নাৱঁত বা জাহাজত দৰমহা নিবলৈ আহি
বিপদৰ সন্মুখীন হব লাগে। যিবা জাহাজ এখন আছে তাৰো অৱস্থা ভাল নহয়। সেই-
গতিকেই মাজুলীৰ অঁহতগুৰি আৰু শিৱসাগৰ মহকুমাৰ মাজুলীৰ অংটো লৈ এখন স্কুলবৰ্ড
গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে গঠন কৰা উচিত। তাত এজন Assistant Sub-Inspector আছে।
তেওঁৰেই এতিয়া সেই অঞ্চলত কাম কৰে। তাত এখন স্কুৱীয়া বৰ্ড গঠন কৰিলে বিশেষ
একো অসুবিধা নহব। গতিকে মই কওঁ যে প্ৰস্তাৱ অনুযায়ী যদি স্কুলবৰ্ডবোৰ ভাগ
ভাগ কৰি দিয়া হয় তেনেহলে নানা ধৰণৰ বেমেজালিবোৰ দূৰ হব। সেইকাৰণে শ্ৰীশৰৎ-
চন্দ্ৰ গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছো।

Shri RADHA CHARAN CHAUDHURY (Boko) :

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় সদস্য শশবৎচন্দ্ৰ গোস্বামী দেৱে আজি যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ
ডাঙি ধৰিছে সেই প্ৰস্তাৱটো মই আংশিকভাৱে সমৰ্থন কৰিছো। সম্পূৰ্ণভাৱে সমৰ্থন
কৰিবপৰা নাই এই কাৰণে যে স্কুলবৰ্ড ভাগ কৰাৰ যিটো হিচাব দিছে সেই অনুযায়ী
গুৱাহাটীত মাত্ৰ এটাহে স্কুলবোৰ্ড হব লাগে আৰু এ খন হলে একোখন বোৰ্ডৰ তলত
প্ৰায় ৭০০ খন স্কুল থাকিব। কিন্তু গুৱাহাটীতেই ১১২ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত স্কুলৰ সংখ্যা
ইমান বাঢ়ি যাব যে তাত ৪ খন বোৰ্ডৰ প্ৰয়োজন হৈ পৰিব। সেইকাৰণে একেবাৰেই
৪ খন বোৰ্ডৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰা হলে মোৰ সমৰ্থনো আংশিক নহলহেঁতেন। মোৰমতে
গুৱাহাটী মহকুমাত ৪ খন বোৰ্ড হব লাগে আৰু পলাশবাৰী, ছয়গাঁও, বকো থানা
লগকৰি ইয়াৰ যেই কোনো এখনক Head quarter কৰি এখন স্কুলবোৰ্ড কৰি দিলে,
Inspection, Pay দিয়া ইত্যাদি সকলো কামতে বেমেজালি কমি যাব। বৰ্তমানে
বোৰ্ড বিলাকে শিক্ষকৰ দৰমহা আদি Money Order কৰি পঠাব লাগে। কিন্তু একেটা
Post office এ দি ৩০১৪০ খনৰ ওপৰ Money order নলয়। এনেকৈ দিনে
৩০১৪০ খন Money order পঠিয়াব লাগিলে ২০০০ হাজাৰ খন স্কুলৰ Money order
আদায় কৰোতে ৩১৪ মাহ লাগি যায়। সেই কাৰণে Head quarter বকো,
ছয়গাঁও বা পলাশবাৰীত কৰি এই এ খন থানা লগ কৰি এখন স্কুলবোৰ্ড গঠন কৰিব
লাগে; আৰু এইবাবে মই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুৰোধ জনালো। এই কাৰণেই শ্ৰীগোস্বামীৰ
প্ৰস্তাৱটো মই আংশিক ভাৱেহে সমৰ্থন কৰিছো।

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) : Mr. Speaker,

Sir, many things have been discussed already and we should
give due consideration to all these things and we should also
try to collect all the necessary informations at least in the for-
mation of the Primary Education Board. We know that Kamrup
district has the highest number of Lower Primary Schools and
the area is also quite big and that one School Board will not
be sufficient but we should also see that the formation of such
School Boards in one particular district only should not be taken
into consideration, but where necessary the formation of
such School Boards will have to be considered in all other parts
of Assam. In this connection, we should see all aspects of things,
such as thickness of population and the need of the tribal, back-

ward and scheduled caste people. We should give adequate stress for the spread of education in those areas where there are a vast number of those classes of people, so that these people may derive benefit from these School Boards. Some years back we heard that a Primary School Board would be opened at Rangiya. Later on it was learnt that there was a tie between Nalbari and Rangiya. I may be wrong, but my information is to the above effect. My point is that the principle that when there is a fight between two or three places the whole proposal should be left out is not a good idea. Where there is a necessity wherefrom large number of people can derive benefit should be selected. We should not think of quarrel and tie between two or three. If we find that Rangiya is suitable from all points of view we should give top most priority to the establishment of the School Board there. My submission also to the Government is that we should see that where a large number of tribal and scheduled caste people are getting benefit we should open a School Board there. So, while supporting the resolution of my friend, Shri Goswami, I would request him to leave it to the Government to decide the issue of location of the Board. A School Board should not be opened for 50 or 100 schools. There must be a sufficient number of schools and it should cater to the needs of tribal and scheduled caste people.

With these words, Sir, I support the resolution moved by my friend, Shri Goswami.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the resolution brought forward by my friend, Shri Goswami is a useful one. It has been brought forward in an opportune moment. I am very glad to see that the resolution of my friend has aroused a lively interest in this House. I am thankful to the hon. Members for giving an opportunity to me to explain the Government's points of view on this important matter. Sir, the observations that the Gauhati School Board has become unwieldy is admitted by Government. As a matter of fact this is the biggest School Board in our State ; biggest from the point of view of number of teachers, biggest from the point of view of number of schools, biggest from the point of view of amount of money that is disbursed and biggest from the point of view of area. Therefore, this School Board on account of its very bigness has become unwieldy and we feel that something should be done early to bring about an improvement in this situation. Therefore, Sir, I have no hesitation in accepting the principle underlying this resolution, *viz.*, the principle of splitting up the existing

School Board of Gauhati, but I am sorry that I cannot give complete satisfaction to the mover of this resolution so far as his other suggestions are concerned, *viz.*: as to how many School Boards are to be set up and where they are to be set up, etc. So far as these suggestions are concerned, I am not in a position to accept those suggestions because these are matters which need close examination, these are matters which need some amount of survey. So, I cannot say off-hand how many School Boards should be there, where they should be located, whether it should be located at Rangiya or at Nalbari or at Saigaon. I cannot off-hand reply to that. Therefore, I request my friends to have some patience on this matter and allow this matter to be decided by Government after examination and also after some amount of survey in this respect. I will not take much time in conducting this survey and also in effecting this examination. It will be done as early as possible. With these observations, I would request my friend, Shri Goswami, to be pleased to agree to the withdrawal of his resolution.

Sir, some of my friends have raised some other questions *viz.*, why we should confine this resolution to Gauhati Board alone, why does the Government not examine this question Statewise and establish the School Boards where there is necessity and where circumstances warrant us to do so. For instance, Shri Barua from Teok has suggested the establishment of a School Board at Majuli. Shri Hazarika from Dibrugarh has suggested one School Board in his Subdivision. Sir, all these things will be taken notice of ; they will be examined along with the examination of the case of Gauhati School Board.

So far as the question of Gauhati School Board is concerned it will be taken up very early. As regards the others it will take some time to examine them and to give effect to them. Sir, my friend Shri Deka made some other observations that the efficiency of the School Board at Gauhati has deteriorated to a considerable extent and so much so that the school buildings under the School Board are in a very dilapidated condition, according to him. Sir, the splitting up of the existing School Board into three or four will not improve the matter because the responsibility of establishing or constructing the school houses lies with the village people mainly. If the villagers in Gauhati Subdivision do not take interest in having better Lower Primary Schools, mere establishment of Lower Primary School Boards will not improve matters.

Sir, the other observation that Deputy Inspectors do not find adequate time not only at Gauhati but in other places also to devote much attention to inspection and supervision works, is also true. Under the Gauhati School Board, unlike under other School Boards, we have two Deputy Inspectors and yet they do not find time enough to devote to inspection and supervision works. Most of these officers have to devote their time to office work, specially to the work of payment of teachers. In one subdivision if one is to disburse about 17 lakhs of rupees then that becomes a tremendous task for him and as such it is not possible for one Deputy Inspector to give much attention to other works. This matter needs examination along with others to give some relief to the Deputy Inspector to enable him to devote much more attention and time in his works of inspection and supervision. Government is quite prepared to examine all these points to bring about improvement in the existing state of affairs in all the School Boards. It is not the case of Gauhati School Board alone, but it is the case of many School Boards of other subdivisions also. So, the whole question will take some amount of time to bring about an improvement in the present state of affairs.

With these observations, Sir, and while accepting the principle of the Resolution without making any commitment as regards number and location, I request my friend to be pleased to withdraw his Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the intention of the hon. Mover of the Resolution ?

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Sir, I am happy for accepting the principle underlying my Resolution and also I am happy that Members of this House have given me overwhelming support to my Resolution. I suggested.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not call upon the Member to make a speech. I wanted to know whether he was satisfied with the assurance given by the Minister for Education and whether he proposed to withdraw his Resolution.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI : Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Minister of Education I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution with the leave of the House was withdrawn.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): Sir, I am not moving my Resolution.

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA (Teok): Sir, I am also not moving my Motion.

Private Members' Resolutions

Resolution *re*: the Prisoners arrested in connection with the Oil Refinery Movement

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that all the prisoners arrested in connection with the Oil Refinery Movement be treated as Political Prisoners and placed in 'B' division.

Sir, upto this date in different jails of the State there are about 1,000 persons arrested in connection with the Oil Refinery Satyagraha and they have been convicted and sentenced to different terms of imprisonment ranging from 15 days to 4 months. I do not want to discuss the necessity or other wise of this movement. But it is admitted and I hope the Treasury Benches will also admit that the persons who offered Satyagrah and who are now rotting behind the prison bar are not like the ordinary criminals. Whether we agree with them or differ from them, it is to be admitted that these persons were actuated by a noble motive. They were trying to vindicate Assam's just and noble demand for having the refinery within the boundary of the State. There is no *mensrea* or a guilty mind and so they should not be treated as ordinary criminals. Of these 1,000 persons only about 4 or 5 have been given 'B' division. The rest have been treated as 'C' division prisoners and are huddled together with other convicts in the jails giving the same, should I say, facilities or lack of facilities to them. While most of the Congress Members of this House were in jail during various movements they promised that if they came to power at any time they would see that reforms were made in the jail and the first reform should be that people who were imprisoned on ground of any political movement be treated as political prisoners and not as ordinary criminals. Sir, this Government is in power for more than 10 years and no perceptible reform has been effected in the jail and there is no classification of prisoners as political prisoners and other prisoners. A distinction has got to be made between the political prisoners

and other prisoners. In fact there is a distinction between State prisoners and prisoners who are ordinary criminals. When that principle has been accepted I should like to say that not only those prisoners who are arrested under the Preventive Detention Act but also those people who are arrested in connection with a political movement should be treated at par with State Prisoners and should be given the status of political prisoners and should be dealt with decently and should be allowed to move with dignity and honour. Sir, I am conscious of the fact that in classifying prisoners it is not the jail authority but the magistrates who do the classification and so direction needs to be given to the magistrates that when a man is arrested, may be under the provision of the Criminal Law, even then if he is arrested in connection with a political movement he should be treated as a political prisoner and should be given at least 'B' Division. To-day, the practice is that only some people whose social status warrants it is placed in 'B' Division. When representation on this score was made, we were told that the people should apply for being placed in 'B' Division. I do not want to name any of those prisoners whose status demands that they should be placed in 'B' Division, but I am astonished to find that even the magistrates, the police officers and persons who are in authority, do not know these things and even when it is brought to their notice they have refused to give them 'B' Division. Sir, I for one do not want to bring any division amongst the political prisoners ; I do not want any classification amongst them. I want that all political prisoners should be treated equally and should be placed in only one Division. I know in many jails of Assam there are hardened criminals, criminals charged with murder, criminals charged with heinous crime, but still they are put in 'B' Division. Why these people, who have come out to suffer for the cause of the country—for a noble cause—have been put in 'C' Division and given the most inhuman treatment ? I feel that time has come when we should remodel our conception, the time has come when it is necessary to revise the entire Jail Manual and also the directions given to the authorities. I feel that to-day it is essential in this democratic State to give these prisoners the status of political prisoners and put them in 'B' Division.

Sir, I have visited the Gauhati jail and seen for myself the food given to them. I have seen for myself the clothings given to them ; the clothings of 1918 perhaps are still in vogue, viz., a half-pant or *jangia* as you may call it, and another *genji*.

Similar is the case with bedding. All these things are continuing in the same old way. Sir, it is human nature to forget suffering and it is natural that many of us who had spent a very valuable period of our life in jail are apt to forget the suffering when we were in jail. But when we were there we felt that when we came out we would try to improve these things and try to frame laws and regulations so that people in jail are treated decently and when they go back they do not take back the memory of those days. But we never acted on that.

Now, Sir, the refinery movement has given us an opportunity to go into these matters and to see whether the situation warrants such reforms and to do the needful. I for myself feel that it is time we do it and, therefore, I have suggested that these people—I would have gone a step further and suggested all the political prisoners but at the moment we are concerned with these people—these noble souls who have suffered and sacrificed for a noble cause should not be given the status of ordinary criminals. They are not guilty of any crime ; may be, they are guilty of some technical offence, *e.g.*, committing trespass somewhere and forming unlawful assembly, etc. These are very technical offences. Sir, from all sides of this House we want that the refinery should be located in Assam; we only differ about the nature of the movement and so there is no justification for treating these prisoners as ordinary criminals. Let them be treated as political prisoners and let them be placed in B Division. I feel the practice needs some modifications. We should provide a radio to these prisoners in jail to hear the news. I have not seen a single radio in any jail in Assam. Then, Sir, the gates are opened at 6 O' Clock in the morning and are closed at 6 O' Clock in the evening. They have to remain in their room for 12 hours. Then, smoking is prohibited even for those who are accustomed to it. Food from outside is not allowed, even those who want to use their own apparel are not allowed to do so. So, my submission is that these rigours of jail life do not improve matters ; they do not make the prisoners feel that they have committed offences and should be repentant. Rather, these prisoners will feel that their moral struggle has not been appreciated. Therefore, Sir, I feel that time has come when it is necessary to treat them as political prisoners and place them in 'B' Division. They should not be treated as ordinary criminals.

With these few words I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : Resolution moved is: "This Assembly is of opinion that all the prisoners arrested in connection with the Oil Refinery Movement be treated as Political Prisoners and placed in 'B' division."

There is an amendment in the name of Mr. Bhattacharyya.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following amendment to the resolution moved by my friend, Shri Goswami—

That the words "the oil refinery", occurring in the resolution be substituted by the words "any political".

That is, the resolution in the amended form will read as follows:—

"This Assembly is of opinion that all the prisoners arrested in connection with any political movement be treated as Political Prisoners and placed in 'B' Division.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Sir, I have a submission to make. This amendment will change the entire substance of the resolution. The Resolution urged that prisoners arrested in connection with the Oil Refinery Movement should be treated as political prisoners and placed in 'B' Division. But this amendment seeks to treat all who are arrested in connection with any political movement as political prisoners and to place them in 'B' Division. It, therefore, changes the whole character of the resolution. In view of this I submit that the amendment is out of order.

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the rule ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI: The amendment is clearly outside the scope of the resolution. It wants to treat all people arrested in connection with any political movement, violent or non-violent, as political prisoners. That is not the intention of the resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER : But I am handicapped by rules. Will the hon. Leader of the House please quote the rule under which I can reject amendments ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI: According to rules, a resolution should refer to a specific subject. That specific subject was the treatment of prisoners who were arrested in connection with the Oil Refinery Movement. But the amendment seeks to introduce a new subject and is, therefore, out of order.

Mr. SPEAKER : But I would like to know the rule under which I can reject amendments. I think the hon. Leader of the House could have objected to it under Rule 91(1) because two clear days' notice has not been given. But that objection has not been taken. Objection could have been taken that two clear days' notice has not been given; as a matter of fact, this amendment was submitted to me just now and had objection been taken on that score it would have been in my discretion to allow or disallow this amendment.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education) : There is still time to raise objection on that score, Sir. Any member can do that now, notwithstanding the fact that the Chief Minister has raised objection on a different score.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** I do not find that the relevant rule is not Rule 98, which says "After a Resolution has been moved, any member may, subject to all the rules relating to resolutions, move an amendment to such resolution."

Mr. SPEAKER : Regarding the scope of the motion there is Rule 49, which says—" (1) An amendment shall be relevant to and within the scope of the motion to which it is proposed."

"(2) An amendment shall not be moved which has merely the effect of a negative vote." Does the hon. Leader of the Opposition raise the objection that it is not within the scope of the motion ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : My submission is that this amendment is one which is admissible by Rule 98. Rule 98 says—"After a resolution has been moved any member may, subject to all the rules relating to resolutions, move an amendment to such resolution."

This is under Chapter X which deals with Resolutions only.

Mr. SPEAKER : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member for Rampur to the definition of Resolution. "A Resolution means a motion for the purpose of

discussing a matter of public importance which is in the form of a specific recommendation addressed to the State Government" "Motion means a proposal made by a Member for consideration of the Assembly and includes a resolution and an amendment." Therefore, what the hon. Member for Rampur has pointed out looks apparently that the definition which includes a resolution cannot be sustained.

Has the hon. Member for Gauhati anything to submit ?

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati):** I beg to submit that so far as my amendment goes it entirely relates to the original scope of the original resolution moved by my hon. friend, Shri Goswami, because the scope of the resolution is with regard to the treatment of Political Prisoners and placing people in 'B' Division. Here he has specifically given a particular category and here he wanted to replace that category, and he wanted to place the persons arrested in connection with Oil Refinery Movement in 'B' Division and that the persons may be treated as Political Prisoners.

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, P. W. D., etc.):** So, I take objection under Rule 99.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister for P. W. D. need not be in haste.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA:** Sir, by my amendment I want that the words "Oil Refinery" occurring in the Resolution be substituted by the words "any political" and the rest will remain the same.

Now, so far as the original resolution is concerned it drives to one point, and that point is giving of political status and placing those persons in 'B' Division, as provided in the Jail Manual. My submission is that if a political person is to be sought, the person should be political, and therefore, the point at which it has driven, that is to say, the political status is to be sought; then it should be the basis from which the direction is to be sought. So, the words should be "any political" and not "Oil Refinery" because Oil Refinery here in the Resolution is not defined. What is Oil Refinery Movement we do not know. As a matter of fact,

*Speech not corrected.

R-2040

the question of Oil Refinery has come only of its recent occurrence. It is not the only one single instance that we have seen in the recent past but also numerous instances. The Khasi demonstrators in Shillong and some Naga demonstrators in the Naga Hills were also arrested on political grounds and placed in "C" Division. Of course nothing succeeds like success. How the Naga people have been given political status. So, Sir, I beg to submit that it would be more logical to replace the words "Oil Refinery" by the words "any Political".

Mr. SPEAKER : I have listened to the speeches of the Hon'ble Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition. The hon. Mover of the amendment wants that the words "Oil Refinery" should be substituted by the words "any political". Now I am concerned here not with any other issue except those by Rules pertaining to Resolutions as well as Motions. So far as Rule 95 is concerned it clearly and specifically lays down—

"Subject to the restriction contained in this rule, any member may move a resolution relating to a matter of general public interest :

Provided that no resolution shall be admissible which does not comply with the following conditions namely :—

(a) it shall be clearly and precisely expressed and shall raise a definite issue".

So far as the scope of the Resolution is concerned it confines to the treatment of the persons arrested in connection with the Oil Refinery Movement. Therefore, this Resolution was admitted on that ground, *viz.*, the issue of treatment of the persons arrested in connection with Oil Refinery Movement.

Now, so far as amendments to Motions and Resolutions are concerned under the existing rules, they are governed by Rule 49(1) which says "An amendment shall be relevant to and within the scope of the motion to which it is proposed."

Now, this amendment, that is, substitution of the word "Political" for "Oil Refinery" in my opinion would radically change the character of the Resolution itself and therefore it would be outside the scope of the Resolution. So, I do not consider that this amendment would be admissible. In respect of the other point which the Hon'ble Minister for P. W. D. wants to raise, I do not think it needs to be discussed by me. Therefore, I rule that the amendment is out of order.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati) : Sir, I want to speak on the Resolution. It has already been explained by my friend as to how the patriots who have been ventilating the feeling of the entire nation on this subject have been treated in the jails. Without even going to discuss as to whether the punishments given to them have been proper, it can be said that the only thing they did was to shout, to express the opinion that the oil refinery in Assam is the just and legitimate demand of the people of the State of Assam and therefore, it should be located in Assam and nowhere else. Their only slogan was "Assam demands the oil refinery". That demand is the demand of all people of Assam including the Leader of the House. Now, what was the charge against these young people ? It is that they shouted this slogan in the Court compound. But if you go, Sir, to Gauhati, you will see in the Court compound from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. some people with big serpents with flutes and other instruments showing their *tamasha* of reptiles and there you will see hundreds of people congregate making all sorts of noises. But that is no annoyance to the Government. If you go there you will see the Biri vendors with their Biris and lots of customers, but that does not create any annoyance. You will also see various other types of people who are creating a lot of noise but these people also are not creating any annoyance to the administration. You will see that when the magistrates swallow their tea for hours in the tiffin hour that also does not hamper much the administration of our Government but when the oil refinery Satyagrahis go there and shout for two minutes in a public place to request the representatives of the Government to relay this demand of the people of the State to the appropriate authorities, these very people who go there with the simple motive and with simple words were given punishments which have been already described by my friend, Mr. Goswami. And after giving punishments how they are treated in the jails ? They are put there as though they were criminals of the worst type. The food that is given to them is not edible to an average man. May be that there are certain rules

in the Jail Manual, but even these rules are not properly followed. It is surprising too that even the Minister-in-charge of Jails did not care to go and examine in the jails what food is given to these prisoners, what type of clothing is being given to them and what type of treatment is being meted out to them. Is it not a fact that due to the movement and agitation of these people our Government itself have been feeling stronger to represent this case in New Delhi and in other places? Unless and until the people move, this rhinoceros wouldn't move. That is why we saw that when oil found in Naharkatia several years back and when an agreement was signed at that time, this Government did not have the perspective, they did not have the eye to see that when crude oil was found in the State, an oil refinery is necessary and that in the terms and conditions of agreement with the Company it might put in a clause to the effect that the oil refinery should be located in Assam. The same Chief Minister today was the Chief Minister of that time but he has not the imagination to see that if at that time this simple clause was inserted in the agreement, perhaps all these troubles would not have been there and perhaps all these youths of the country whose hearts were burning for the country would not have been in jail. We have been hearing from many quarters that their feeling for a refinery is nothing from the heart but from the head. It might be. But we want also a clear head from the administration because it is not only the heart that rules, but the head is also necessary. So, it is because of this lack of imagination, lack of deep thinking, that these youths of our country had to offer *satyagraha*. If anybody is responsible for all this, it is the Government which are responsible because they created conditions that made the people to take the movement in their own hands. There is a gap created by the Government and its administration that is sought to be filled up by the people. But now that they are going to make it understandable to the powers that be that the people of Assam will not be satisfied unless and until they get this their just and legitimate demand, they were given the treatment as already described.

Now, without giving a longer speech it can be said that the least that Government can do now is that they can give them a more humane treatment in jail. The treatment that was being given to them now is the treatment of a revengeful man, nay, of a vain and mean man. It is the mean treatment of a vain and revengeful man because he wants to conceal or to cover up his own failure; he wants to take revenge on him who wants to show that he fails there. Therefore, it is high

time that these errors were corrected because if there is no correction now, history and the people of Assam will explain as to who is responsible for all this.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) :

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অসমত এহেজাবতকৈও অধিক লোকে সত্যাপ্ৰহ আন্দোলনত যোগদান কৰাৰ বাবে কাৰাবাস বৰণ কৰিব লগীয়াত পৰিছে। অকল শিৱসাগৰতেই নহয় ১৮৪ জন সত্যাপ্ৰহীয়ে কাৰাবাস বৰণ কৰিছে আৰু ভবিষ্যতে আৰু লোকে বৰণ কৰিব।

এইটো ঠিক যে এই বুৰক সকলৰ অনেক কৰ্ত্তব্য আছে আৰু আৱশ্যক নোহোৱা হলে সত্যাপ্ৰহ কৰিবলৈ নগলহেঁতেনে। অসমৰ বুকত অনেক মূল্যবান সম্পদ পৰি আছে, তাক আৱিষ্কাৰ কৰাৰ পিচতো কিয় আজি সত্যাপ্ৰহ কৰিবলগা হৈছে? কাৰণ আজি আমাৰ চৰকাৰ নিমাত। আজি অসমত শোধানাগাৰ হ'ব লাগে। কাৰণ অসম ধৰণৰ বুকত অমূল্য সম্পদ থাকে। তেল উদ্ধাৰ কৰি শিল্প গঢ়ি তুলিব লাগে। কিন্তু আজি পৰ্য্যন্ত চৰকাৰে তাক খাটো কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে। চৰকাৰে ক'ব নোৱাৰে শোধানাগাৰ অসমত হ'ব নে নহ'ব।

কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে আৰু দুই এটা বিষয়ত অসমৰ আমাৰ সন্মান ক্ষুণ্ণ কৰিছে। যোৱা ২৫ চেপ্তেম্বৰৰ দিনা ৪৫ মিনিটৰ ভিতৰতে অসমৰ একাংশ কাৰ্টি সুকীয়া নাগাপাহাৰ এলেকা দি দিলে। অসম চৰকাৰক আলোচনাই নকৰিলে। অসমক অবমাননা কৰা নাইনে?

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. The hon. Member will not be relevant to talk anything outside the scope of the resolution under discussion. I, therefore, request him to speak only about things pertaining to that resolution.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH :

মই প্ৰস্তাৱলৈ ঘূৰি আহিছোঁ। এনে এটা পৰিস্থিতি সৃষ্টি হ'ল যে তেতিয়া কেবল একমাত্ৰ পথ আছিল আন্দোলন। এই আন্দোলনক অসম চৰকাৰে তুচ্ছ জ্ঞান কৰিব পাৰে কিন্তু এই জনসাধাৰণৰ আন্দোলনৰ কাৰণেই অসম চৰকাৰে দুঘাৰ মাত মাতিবলৈ সক্ষম হৈছে। কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰেও আন্দোলনক বহুবাৰ নমস্কাৰ কৰিবলগীয়া হৈছে। যেনে কলিকতাৰ ট্ৰাম কাৰ আন্দোলন। অন্ধ্ৰপ্ৰদেশ গঠনৰ দাবীত ৫৮ দিন অনশন কৰাৰ পাচত যেতিয়া 'ৰামলুলু' মৃত্যু হ'ল, তেতিয়া জনসাধাৰণে আন্দোলন কৰিলে তেতিয়া সুকীয়া অন্ধ্ৰপ্ৰদেশ গঠন হ'ল।

এনে এটা সময় হৈছিল,—যেতিয়া অসম চৰকাৰে নিমাত। জনসাধাৰণে যেতিয়া দেখিলে যে চৰকাৰৰ পৰা দেশৰ দাবী আৰু মৰ্যাদা ৰক্ষাৰ কোনো আশা নাই, তেতিয়া

জনসাধৰণেই সেই দাবী আৰু মৰ্যাদা অটুট ৰাখিবলৈ আন্দোলন আৰম্ভ কৰিছিল। এই ৰাজ্যৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ আন্দোলন—আমিও ইয়াত বহি থাকিলে নহ'ব। মই নিজেও ১৫ নবেম্বৰৰ দিনা শিৱসাগৰত সত্যাগ্ৰহ কৰিব লাগিব।

(Voice— তেখেতে কোন তাৰিখে সত্যাগ্ৰহ কৰিব?)

এবাৰ কলে নুশুনো? শুই থাকিবলৈ আহিছে (হাঁহি) কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে এতিয়াহে কৈছে যে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰত দলং দিব ইয়ো সেই আন্দোলনৰেই ফল। আগতেও পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিকী পৰিকল্পনাৰ শেষ ভাগতহে বিবেচনা কৰা হ'ব বুলি কৈছিল।

(Nehru said—That will be considered in the later part of the Second Five Year Plan).

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : চাৰ অনুমতি হলে মই এটা কথা কওঁ।

Does the hon. Member want to go for the Satyagraha after the resolution is pressed, being assured of a division?

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : I do not care for the division or anything like that although I know there are many others who are very keen on a division. We have experience of the Satyagraha movements of 1930, 1931 and also of 1942, we took active part in those movements. But many of the hon. Members now sitting on that side of this House have no such experiences. এইটো ইতিপূৰ্বেই ঠিক কৰা হৈছে। এনে এটা দৰ্কাৰী আন্দোলন Suppress কৰিবলৈ যোৱাটো কিমান ভুল হ'ব সেইটো চৰকাৰে ভাবি চাইছেনে?

I have experience of 1921, 1931, 1942 movement but many of you have not seen jail—though Member and Minister now.

ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰক স্তুতি দিয়া হ'ব মাত্ৰ।

Mr. SPEAKER: আন্দোলন Suppress কৰিব লাগে বুলি কোৱা নাই, সত্যাগ্ৰহী সকলক ৰাজনৈতিক বন্দীৰ আখ্যা দিব লাগে বুলিহে দাবী কৰা হৈছে। আপোনাৰ বক্তব্যও তাতে সীমাবদ্ধ কৰক।

Now hon. Member may carry on.

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: Yes, Sir, this is the most fitting reply to them.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)

মই কও যে যিসকলে এই আন্দোলন কৰিছে, তেওঁলোক অসমৰ স্বসন্তান আজি বাধ্য হৈ আন্দোলনত নামিব লগাত পৰিছে। তেখেতসকলৰ চিন্তাৰ বা শক্তি প্ৰয়োগৰ কাৰণে আজিৰ যুগত অনেক বিষয় আৰু স্থল আছে। চৰকাৰৰ অকৰ্পণ্যতা ফলতেই আজি তেখেতসকল আন্দোলনত নামিছে। তেওঁলোকৰ চিন্তাধাৰাও দেশৰ প্ৰগতিৰ ফালে আগুৱাই নিয়া কামতে নিয়োক কৰা হৈছে। দেশৰ উন্নতিয়েই তেওঁলোকৰো লক্ষ্য। তেওঁলোকক আমি মৰমৰ চকুৰে চোৱা দৰকাৰ।

জেলবিলাকনো চৰকাৰে কেনে পদ্ধতিৰে সংস্কাৰ কৰিছে। মই নিজৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা কব পাৰো যে আজিও কয়েদীসকলে ৩ মাহত মাত্ৰ এখনহে চিঠি দিব পাৰে। ৩ মাহৰ ভিতৰতহে এদিন আত্মীয় স্বজনৰ লগত দেখাদেখি হ'ব পাৰে। মই নিজে নগাঁও জেলত দেখিছো। সেইবিলাকৰপৰা কব পাৰো যে আজিও আমি Medcaval যুগতেই বৈ আছো। অতীতৰ অৱস্থাই আজিও চলি আছে। শিৱসাগৰৰ জেলৰ পাৰাখানাৰ অৱস্থা দেখিলে দুখ লাগে। যোৰহাট, গুৱাহাটী আদি সকলোৰে জেলৰ ভিতৰত সেই একে অৱস্থা। গতিকে জেলৰ কোনো সংস্কাৰ আজিও হোৱা নাই। চৰকাৰৰ কেৱল মুখেৰে প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতিহে দি আহিছে।

শিৱসাগৰ, গুৱাহাটী জেলৰ বেৰ (Wall) ৮।৯ ছটা ইটা দি ওখ কৰিছে, কিন্তু ভিতৰৰ সংস্কাৰ হোৱা নাই।

সবশেষত মই কও যে যিসকল ডেকাই সত্যাগ্ৰহ কৰিছে তেওঁলোকো চৰকাৰৰে ভিতৰৰ লোক। তেওঁলোকে সাহসেৰে অসমৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ অন্তৰৰ দাবী এটি জনাইছে মাত্ৰ। তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰতি সেই দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীৰে আচৰণ কৰিব লাগে। এই আন্দোলনত যোগ দিবলৈ মই চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষক আহ্বান জনাও। এনেধৰণৰ দেশসেৱাত তেওঁলোকক আমি সকলোৰে উৎসাহ দিয়া দৰ্কাৰ। ইয়াকে কৈ মই মাননীয় গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো সৰ্বসন্মতিক্ৰমে গৃহীত হয়।

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA ([Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by Shri Hareswar Goswami.

I believe this House is well acquainted with the Satyagraha movement, and to my mind I am definitely sure that this movement cannot but be treated as a patriotic movement. The Government may not be agreeable to treat these Satyagrahis as political prisoners, and for that they may contend that this movement has got nothing to do with politics. But if we try to understand the exact implication of the word 'politics', I am sure, the House cannot but agree that the economy is the foundation of politics. We had had occasions to regard our leaders who had been fighting for the independence of India as political prisoners, to treat them as political prisoners. And even this day, whenever there is an occasion to propagate a certain cause, it is only meet and proper that the sufferers for

that cause should be treated on the same footing with those sufferers for our political freedom. So, when this resolution has been brought for consideration by the House, our request to the hon. Members is to pay due consideration to the sincere intention of this resolution. If to-day Government feel themselves unable to treat these people courting imprisonment for a very noble cause as political prisoners, then I would straightway say that our leaders have not been seriously thinking about the economic problems of our country; but all they are thinking about is only the political freedom of the country, and that too with a view to become big leaders, to become Ministers and so on and so forth. We have often heard our Ministers talking about economic freedom. Our Prime Minister also said the other day that we have achieved political freedom, and now our duty is to bring about economic freedom of the people of India. Now, if these friends of ours who have been convicted and sent to jail because of this refinery movement are not treated as political prisoners only because they have offered this Satyagraha with a view to have the oil refinery established within the State of Assam, it will be very strange, indeed. I believe this House is fully convinced that if the refinery is located within the State of Assam, it will bring for the people of Assam a great measure of economic freedom. If you agree that economy is the foundation of politics, there cannot be any hesitation to treat these people as political prisoners. To be frank, Sir, probably due to certain interpretation of the law, or probably due to certain divergence of opinion in the interpretation of certain rules or laws, I find some hon. Members were laughing it out. It appears to me that they have not been able to realise the intensity of the purpose of these people who have been made to suffer in the jails. If to-day we simply condemn these people, and if they do not get what they want, *i.e.*, if the oil refinery is not located inside the State of Assam, our leaders will also be economically sufferers. Therefore, I am going to be very brief, Sir, I would request the hon. Members of the House to try to understand as to what are the causes, what are the circumstances which made these people to commit the crimes. Please try to understand what made them to commit such crimes. If you try to understand in that way, I believe then every hon. Member of this House will agree with the Mover of the Resolution that these prisoners should be treated as political prisoners and should be given the 'B' Class Division.

With these observations, Sir, I strongly support the Resolution moved by my friend, Mr. Goswami.

***Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my friend, Shri Goswami to treat the prisoners arrested in connection with the Oil Refinery Movement as Political Prisoners and place them in "B" division. The persons who were arrested in connection with the Oil Refinery Movement were not only the Satyagrahis but also included those persons who were arrested in connection with the Oil Refinery Movement. Sir, we all know that all persons who were arrested in this connection are not thieves, robbers or murderers, but they are really good persons, they are really the lovers of their country and they have offered their lives as such to suffer in the jails. We know that among the Satyagrahis there are school teachers. I also personally know of my friend, Shri Sarma, who is a school teacher and a graduate who was arrested along with the Satyagrahis but this gentleman was not given the 'B' Class Division. Sir, there is provision in the Jail Manual that such persons should be given the status of "B" Class Division. Sir, amongst the arrested persons in this movement I know also that there are some school and college students and a college professor who had offered Satyagraha but all these persons are not given the status of political prisoners and they are not given the "B" Class Division.

***Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY [Moran (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** Sir, on a point of information, may I ask the hon. Member under what political principles those persons can be gathered or grouped together or if it was a political movement—how many political leaders have been arrested except those innocent and ignorant village people who know very little or nothing at all about this oil refinery movement?

***Shri TARUN SEN DEKA:** I am surprised to find that my friend wants to term the Satyagrahis as ignorant, rather I submit that the Satyagrahis are our brothers and they did not commit any offence at all for their personal ends. My friend, Shri Goswami has clarified this point in so far that these persons are no criminals nor do they have evil intention in themselves. Sir, I am surprised about the remarks of my friend, Shri Lalit Daley, about the Satyagrahis. They may have committed some sort of minor offence, such as, house trespass, but this is a technical offence but the

treatment which has been given to them as ordinary criminals is really a shocking one. Sir, the Satyagrahis have offered Satyagraha to rectify their own country. We all know that during the last June Session when news came up in the newspapers that the Central Government wanted to locate the Oil Refinery at Barauni and not in Assam there was a movement among the people of this State and subsequently on the decision of the Government of India to locate the Oil Refinery at Barauni, a deputation went from Assam to Delhi and after spending a huge sum of money from the public exchequer, a statement was issued from the side of the deputationists that Abul Kalam Azad and other leading personalities of the Central Government were not in favour of locating the Oil Refinery at Barauni but rather in Assam and that the issue would be finally decided again in favour of Assam after the Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru returned from Europe. This Statement was issued on behalf of the deputationists who went to Delhi after spending a huge sum of money from the public exchequer, but what happened? After a few days my hon. friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, disclosed the shocking news in a public meeting at Gauhati that Pandit Nehru sent a cable from Europe that "previous decision stands". After this shocking news was discussed by my friend, Shri Bhattacharjee, we know that some of the leading personalities of the deputation issued another statement indicating the disclosure of Shri Bhattacharjee as false. But soon after the Prime Minister returned from Europe he attended the Parliament and some members of Parliament from Assam raised this question again on the floor of the Parliament as to whether or not the location of the Oil Refinery would be set up in Assam. Supporting the previous decision the Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, told the Parliament that it was not proper both technically and geographically to establish the Oil Refinery in Assam. Therefore, Sir, the people of Assam were surprised to note the previous statement issued by the deputationists from Assam, which was proved false after the speech made by the Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, on the floor of the Parliament. After the speech had been made by the Prime Minister on the floor of Parliament the movement demanding location of the Oil Refinery in Assam started. After this the Prime Minister again invited the Chief Minister together with the Leader of the Opposition to go on a deputation to Delhi, but I regret to say that the Leader of the Opposition Shri Hareswar Goswami was not taken by the Chief Minister. After returning from Delhi, another statement which was issued to the Press was disclosed by the Chief Minister.....

(Interruptions)

***M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is out of order, he is speaking about events not connected with the resolution..... (interruptions)

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. I think the hon. Members have already explained what led to the Refinery Movement and not only the Mover but also the hon. Member from Gauhati has spoken about it, and I am afraid, because of the repetition, the hon. Member from Nalbari-West should confine his observations to the demand for treatment for prisoners in the Oil Refinery Movement as political prisoners.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : So, Sir, from all these it is evident that the prisoners arrested in connection with the Oil Refinery Movement are political prisoners and whatever provisions may be there in the Jail Manual it is submitted to this House through you that all the prisoners of refinery movement should be treated as political prisoners and not only they should be treated as political prisoners they should also be classed as 'B' Division irrespective of their status.

With these observations I support the resolution moved by my friend.

***Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion on the resolution has been of academic nature. In fact already we have released all the prisoners arrested in connection with the refinery movement. So there is no question of how they should be treated. Some hon. Members and particularly Shri Barbaruah by his vehemence indicated in course of his speech that he believed in violence. He is a Member of the Revolutionary Communist Party who tried to create disorder in the country by committing dacoity..... (interruptions).

***Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) :** Sir, the words—violence or non-violence—were not uttered by me.

Mr. SPEAKER : I am afraid the Chief Minister has done an injustice to the hon. Member to suggest that as he spoke with vehemence, he believed in violence. I do not think it can be permitted.

*Speech not corrected.

***Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :** I am sorry for that, Sir, my friend Shri Bhattacharyya said that Government had lack of imagination in not keeping the refinery in the public sector. He should know that grant of a prospecting lease or mining lease does not authorise anybody to start an oil refinery. Refinery is completely a separate thing and a Rupee Company has nothing to do with it. As a matter of fact the Rupee Company is being floated with regard to prospecting in Naharkatia and Moran areas and also for extracting the crude oil which also includes transport of crude oil. Up to that extent the Rupee Company is concerned. This has been stated in the Parliament and on the floor of the Assembly. According to the industrial policy of the Government of India, it is absolutely in the public sector and in case of necessity Government under that resolution can bring in some parties who can help in establishing a refinery. So his charge of 'lack of imagination' on the part of the Government is absolutely incorrect. Perhaps he does not care to keep adequate information about these things. The question of refinery has nothing to do with the Rupee Company.

Now, Sir, my friend, Shri Goswami has stated that these prisoners were huddled together with the ordinary prisoners. Sir, so far as my information goes they were kept separate. They were given political status. They were not huddled together with the ordinary criminals. Then my friend, Shri Bhattacharyya said these persons were arrested while they were moving in the compound of the court. But so far as my information goes they formed unlawful assemblies, entered the court and tried to interfere with the proceedings of the court of justice. Sir, it has been the painful duty of our officers to arrest them in order to prevent them from interfering with the judicial work of the magistrates and thereby create disorder in the country by trespassing into the court rooms and obstructing the officers from doing the public work. In no other countries of the world have we heard that such an industrial matter or project can be decided by demonstrations or Hartal or procession.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) :** They are done..... (interruptions)

***Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :** Well, if these things were done in any Communist country, I think they would have straightway put under the prison bars.....

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether more time is being spent or wasted by the magistrates in attending on Ministers than to the Satyagraha movement....(*laughter*)

***Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI :** I do not think it is worth replying to (*laughter*). Under those circumstances they were arrested. It was almost a settled fact that the location of the refinery was to be at Barauni and when the facts and circumstances were placed before the Prime Minister the case was reopened and there was the direction to prepare a special project report and to examine how the crude oil may be taken from one place to another—either by barges or by a pipe line—and which is more economical.....

***Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) :** On a point of information, Sir, may I know whether the location of the refinery at Barauni has been ruled out by the Centre ?

***Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI :** Hon. Members may not be aware that Assam may produce more than 50 per cent of the oil requirement of India and so this is a product of national interest and so if the refinery is established in one place there might be scope for having another refinery in another place also if the mineral resources could justify it. It will be so done in the best interest of India as well as Assam. That is why the location of the refinery at Barauni has not been ruled out. If we can produce crude oil and then refine it properly it will be to the advantage of India and Assam also. But if we cannot do it then there will be difficulties as in Persia and some other places.

I now give the information to the hon. Members that an independent project report for location of the refinery in the Gauhati area has been ordered by the Government of India. Whether it will be economical to carry the crude oil in barges to Gauhati or it should be carried through a pipe line is also a matter to be decided. Whether a single pipe line

can carry the product to different centres is also an important matter and is being examined by world known experts. We have also sent a deputation to contact other independent experts so that they can give us materials to help us in coming to a decision. Therefore, after reopening the whole matter and after a decision that there will be a project report basing on an industrial policy, as has been announced by the Prime Minister in his Press Note wherein he stated also that the raw products are to be utilised for the development of industrial places, I do not understand why the refinery Satyagraha movement was launched at all. Of course there may be difference of opinion and I do not find fault with them.....

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** On a point of information, Sir, it has been stated that Government of Assam submitted certain facts to the Government of India and as a result of which the matter has been reopened and the matter is being re-examined. Now, will the Chief Minister be pleased to explain whether these facts were in possession of the Government when the so called expert committee was preparing its report and whether in that expert committee there was one, Mr. Trivedi, and whether is it a fact that the 'Kumbhakarna' who was sleeping was roused by the Satyagraha movement ?

Mr. SPEAKER : I cannot allow ironical expressions to be made. I can allow expressions seeking for clarifications only.

***Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :** Some important facts and figures along with the advice of the experts were placed before the Prime Minister and he having a broad mind was also in a way in favour of having the refinery here in Assam. But this oil business is a very difficult business. This oil business has led to different parties, political blocks in the country and now this is a world problem. To some extent of course there were cartels. I made a full statement immediately after my arrival in Calcutta and on arrival at Gauhati I made a request to the people stating that it was not necessary to continue the Satyagraha movement at this stage after the matter was re-opened. Some people thought probably that this re-opening of the matter is attributable to the Government and the Congress organisation and that is why others who do

not belong to the Government and the Congress organisation decided to continue the movement, and at one stage some of the Satyagrahis wanted to be violent. It may be known to the hon. Members that when I got information that a meeting was going to be held at the Curzon Hall I went to attend this meeting without taking any police escort. I did not get any information previously that Mr. Bhattacharyya was also coming to attend this meeting. He did not try to quell the disturbance in which there was pelting of stones, etc., and there was no condemnation from their side.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** We tried our best.

***Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** I did not care so much for the assault on me. I did not mind to be killed if they could get the refinery by so doing. Some disturbance followed. But did the Action Committee condemn that action in the meeting? I did not find any statement in the Press condemning such an action.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Sir, really I am sorry that the Leader of the House has to make such a statement. In fact the Resolution was passed by the Action Committee on the 31st July expressing a feeling of the people in regard to the re-opening of the matter.....

***Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI:** The whole resolution as I read it says that those people who committed violence were not under the command of the Action Committee, but their action was not condemned.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I do not understand what the Hon'ble Chief Minister means by saying that the action was not condemned. When we regretted the unfortunate incident, it means that we were not a party to these acts of violence and we regretted the action of violence.

***Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Any way, my interpretation is like that.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** As a matter of fact, the Chief Minister knows that at least some of us escorted him safely from the meeting.

***Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :** These are all personal matters. Bhattacharyya was not seen by me when I came out of the hall.

(Shri Bhattacharyya rose to his feet in angry protest and said—"I was standing just behind you").

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. This discussion has been reduced to a personal level, which is not quite in conformity with the dignity of the House. I would, therefore, appeal to all Members that the matter should be discussed at a level which is befitting to the dignity and decorum of this House.

***Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI :** I would not have referred to it, Sir, but I did so only to demonstrate the Government was not at any stage vindictive. The Government appealed for discontinuance of this so-called satyagraha movement. On more than one occasion I met the members of the Action Committee and urged on them to discontinue the satyagraha movement after the announcement by the Central Government about reopening the case. I told them "Let us see the result after examination of the question in a dispassionate atmosphere". This sort of uncalled-for and unseemly satyagraha will lead us nowhere. I also told them that this so-called satyagraha was ultimately leading to violence which will stand in the way of development of this State. We must have a cool and dispassionate consideration of the matter and see that law and order is restored. Respect for law can only be obtained by obeying the law and not by violence. I hope the hon. Members of this House and those who are in the Action Committee and who are in favour of continuing the satyagraha will dispassionately consider the matter. I sometimes feel so sad that even in spite of repeated requests people are courting imprisonment here and there. I learnt that some of these prisoners had objection to use of mill-made cloth at Gauhati jail. When that fact was brought to my notice I directed to the Deputy Commissioner to purchase khadi cloth and provide it to them. This will show how deeply

I feel about this matter. Sir, I need not say how I deplore that the energies of these youngmen instead of being utilised in constructive channel should be frittered away like this. Hon. Members will remember that on the 25th October I issued a statement from my sick-bed. I said "I have been greatly distressed to learn that a number of enthusiastic youngmen have been courting imprisonment in some places in connection with the Satyagraha movement started by the Oil Refinery Action Committee in support of the demand for location of the Oil Refinery at Gauhati. After the Government of India have reopened their decision on the location of the Refinery at Barauni, they are taking necessary steps for preparation of a project report for location of the refinery at Gauhati and examining the feasibility of refined products being transported by multi-purpose pipelines or otherwise from the Gauhati area to different consuming centres including the Barauni area, simultaneously with the preparation of the project report for Barauni. I appeal to the members of the Action Committee and the young satyagrahis to abandon the satyagraha movement, so that an atmosphere conducive to the dispassionate consideration of the project reports in accordance with the industrial policy adopted by the Government of India for utilising raw materials for regional industrial development of the areas where they are found may be created and the youthful energy of young satyagrahis who have courted imprisonment may be canalised in constructive channels for development of the country. I hope my humble appeal will find ready response from those who are still contemplating to continue the satyagraha movement".

Immediately on that very day I ordered release of all College and School Students and women Satyagrahis, under-trial or convicted. Besides all persons under the age of 18 were directed to be released.

Then I passed another order—I was in sick-bed at that time. I passed an order on the 3rd November and asked the Chief Secretary to direct all the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers to release all Satyagrahis, with the expectation that the movement will be discontinued. After all what is the good of continuing this satyagraha when the matter is opened and no decision has been arrived at by the Government of India? In order to get sympathy of the whole nation it is desirable to have a cooler atmosphere, which is so very necessary to develop this strategic frontier State. This can only be done in a peaceful atmosphere and not in an atmosphere of Satyagraha involving violence here and there. In

pursuance of that, orders have been issued for release of all Satyagrahis, either under-trial or convicted. Does that show vindictiveness on the part of the Government ? In the face of all these, Sir, what is the necessity of moving this resolution that they should be treated as political prisoners and placed in B Division. These prisoners are at present treated as special prisoners. They are not allowed to mix with ordinary criminals. Sir, there is no definition as yet in our Jail Manual of "political prisoners". This matter is under examination. There is difference of opinion on this issue as to whether those who use violence even with a political motive should be treated as political prisoners on the same level with those who resort to non-violence method. We believe that if we treat both these classes on the same level, violence will be encouraged. We are believers in non-violence and there is a great deal of difference between us and those who believe in violence. Therefore, the definition of the words "political prisoners" is still under the consideration of Government and we are also considering what further amenities should be given to the political prisoners. It will take some time before we come to a decision. But according to the existing rule of the Manual they cannot be treated as political prisoners. That is why we have treated them as special prisoners. Under the existing rule those convicted prisoners are eligible for division irrespective of nationality who by social status, education or habit of life have been accustomed to a superior mode of living. This is done by the trying Magistrate. There is a provision for appeal to the District Magistrate. There can also be a reference by petition to Government. We would have certainly considered any specific cases if any reference were made to us even by a third party who are outside the jail. The leaders of the movement might have brought to our notice specific cases of ill-treatment, if there were any. But nothing was done. I would, therefore, request the hon. Mover to withdraw his resolution because I am quite sure that after my last order, not a single person is in jail now and there is no necessity of this resolution.

(The House adjourned for *lunch* till 2 P.M.)

(After *lunch* the Assembly re-assembled again at 2 P.M. with the Deputy Speaker in the Chair).

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Sir, what happened is this that the Speaker after the Leader of the House had spoken and wanted my opinion whether I would like to withdraw the motion.

My difficulty is that there are two things. So far as the release of the Satyagrahi prisoners is concerned we appreciate the action taken by the Government. But there are certain other persons whose cases are still pending in the courts in connection with the Refinery movement in 1956.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Regarding the pending cases of under-trial prisoners, direction has been issued to the Public Prosecutors to withdraw those cases. In view of this the hon. Member should withdraw the resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw the Motion ?

The Motion stands withdrawn with the leave of the House.

Resolution re: the Establishment of a Sub-Jail at Barpeta

Dr. SHRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Assembly is of opinion that a Sub-Jail be immediately established in Barpeta Town.

Sir, in support of my Resolution, I would like to speak a few words. In this connection I would like to draw a reference to the accommodation of the Barpeta Magistrate's Lock-up. Its present accommodation has its capacity to accommodate 30 under-trial prisoners. But at present the under-trial prisoners who are accommodated there are four times greater in number and the number of under-trial prisoners has been gradually increasing, day by day, and the Lock-up is bound to be kept in its unhygienic atmosphere due to the increase of under-trial prisoners accommodated there. I find convicts too are sent to Gauhati Jail as there is no sub-jail at Barpeta. Moreover, the convicts are always delayed in sending. There is always stagnation in the said Lock-up as a result of increasing number of under-trial prisoners who are already over-crowded.

Sir, if the hon. Members of this House will kindly refer to Unstarred Question No.6 of 8th March, 1954, asked by Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed, and the supplementary question asked by the then hon. Member Maulavi Md. Umaruddin, the then Minister for Jails said that "a Sub-Jail is being built," and the words "is being built" were again clarified by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and said that "there is provision in the next year's Budget, and in anticipation of that steps have been

taken now. We acquired land and we have taken other preliminary steps for the construction of the Jail.....". After that the then hon. Member Maulavi Md. Umaruddin contended that the words "is being built" were not correct. The Chief Minister then replied by saying that "all preliminary steps are taken to build it."

Sir, since 1954 uptil now no steps are being taken, and now it has elapsed four years since then, and till now nothing has been done to take steps with a view to construct the Jail at Barpeta. So, I hope that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Jail will kindly take immediate steps to establish immediately a Sub-Jail in Barpeta Town, and start work for this purpose immediately.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The motion moved is that this Assembly is of opinion that a Sub-Jail be immediately established in Barpeta Town.

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Jail) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is coming forward with a resolution on which the Government has already taken some decision for the implementation of the work. I agree with the mover of the resolution that it is a long-standing matter since 1953-54. Sir, for the information of the House, I would like to say that the Government is taking necessary steps in this matter so that the difficulties of the prisoners which the hon. Member has pointed out could quickly be removed. Originally there was a proposal for construction of a District Jail, and the matter was taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 3 lakhs, and administrative approval to the scheme was also given in the year 1953-54. Then the difficulty arose about the selection of the site, for the location of the Jail, and the then Minister himself (my predecessor) visited the place and finally selected a site near the Barpeta-Baghbor Road.

Then it appeared that the original cost of the estimated expenditure had to be increased from Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs.16,18,000 in view of the changes that were subsequently proposed on the basis of the newly selected site. The position now as it stands is that the Finance Department which agreed to the original estimated cost of Rs. 3 lakhs had to accord its sanction to the revised estimated cost of Rs.16,18,000. So, we are taking up the matter with the Finance Department for its approval. We are trying to expedite construction of the Jail in order to remove the difficulties pointed out by the hon. Member. The hon. Member through his resolution referred

to the construction of a Sub-Jail, but the Government is proposing for the construction of a District Jail. I hope that as action has already been taken and also the hon. Member can expect to have it taken up early, he will not press his resolution. Of course, I cannot assure him as he has put it that it will be constructed immediately. But I hope that within a very short time the construction will be taken up. I hope with this assurance of mine the hon. Member will be pleased to withdraw the resolution.

Dr. SHRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) : In view of the assurance given by the Minister-in-charge, I beg to leave of the House to withdraw my resolution.

The resolution was withdrawn with the leave of the House.
(Resolutions No.6 and 7 not moved).

Resolution re: Non-payment or irregular payment of wages to the Tea Garden labourers in Cachar

Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do forthwith set up a Committee with Minister of Labour as its Chairman to devise ways and means with a view to take necessary measures to meet the situation caused by non-payment or irregular payment of wages to the labourers by the Management of the Tea Estate in Cachar.

In this connection I beg to submit that though there are complaints about non-payment or irregular payment of wages, bonus and various kinds of dues in tea gardens all over the State, it has become acute in the district of Cachar specially in two tea gardens, namely Ghanthalia and Changuri. Sir, this is not a matter of few days but week after week, even month after month they are remaining unpaid and they have approached the local labour officer and the Deputy Commissioner and even the Ministerial level here, that is the Government but uptil now nothing has been done in this connection. So, it is now very important to improve the situation which has arisen due to the non-payment of wages, etc., otherwise it will go from bad to worse. It is naturally understood that some odds may come and to check this sort of naturally apprehended odds, the Government should immediately set up a Committee with Labour Minister as its Chairman to devise ways and means and to take necessary measures to meet the contingency even, if required, by legislation or otherwise. So in this connection, I think, Government will be pleased to make a decision in a day or two and take the matter as a

special one. With these few words, I commend my resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved is that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do forthwith set up a Committee with Minister of Labour as its Chairman to devise ways and means with a view to take necessary measures to meet the situation caused by non-payment or irregular payment of wages to the labourers by the Management of the Tea Estates in Cachar.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move an amendment to this resolution.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : Is this in order ? At least two days' notice ought to have been given.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR : I beg to move that the word 'Cachar' occurring in the end of the Resolution be substituted by the words 'the State of Assam' and the words "and bonus" be added after the word "wages." The Resolution in the amended form will read as follows:—

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do forthwith set up a Committee with Minister of Labour as its Chairman to devise ways and means with a view to take necessary measures to meet the situation caused by non-payment or irregular payment of wages and bonus to the labourers by the Management of the Tea Estates in the State of Assam".

Now, Sir, as a matter of fact, the mover of the resolution has mentioned about the non-payment or irregular payment of wages and bonus all over the State.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : My point of order is this : whether this amendment is in order or not ? Notice of the amendment ought to have been given at least two days earlier, but we have received the notice only today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, under rule 99.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education) : With regard to the scope of the resolution also, it has gone beyond the scope of the original resolution.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : Formerly it was a question of wages, now it is a question of wages and bonus. So, it is altogether a new question.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, as much as the application of Rule 99 is concerned, you may at your discretion allow the amendment to be moved. That is provided for in Rule 99 itself. As for the other issue, namely, the scope of the resolution, non-payment and irregular payment of wages is a feature most common to all the Tea Estates of Assam. It is not a particular peculiarity or a characteristic of the Tea Estates of Cachar district. The mover of the resolution has admitted this. He has generalised the non-payment and irregular payment to be a feature common to all the Tea Estates of Assam. As a matter of fact that is the burden of his song. As much as bonus is concerned, all schools of economists, and Trade Unionists of all shades and colours now recognise bonus to be a form of deferred wages. Bonus, Sir, therefore, has the same connotations as wages. It essentially belongs to the category of wages. So, Sir, these objections may not be held to be valid.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have heard the mover of the amendment as also the hon. Members of the treasury benches and Shri Hazarika. Although I can waive that objection of two days' notice, I cannot waive the other objections. As such, I think, the amendment is not in order. Of course Mr. Borthakur may speak on the main resolution.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR : In support of this resolution of my Friend, Mr. Chaubey, I may state though he mentioned only one district where the question of non-payment or irregular payment of wages has become acute, this is a common phenomenon which is prevailing in the entire State of Assam. Under the Minimum Wages Act the labourers are given a fixed quota of wages determined by the wage board but we find in most of the gardens there are complaints that the management always tries to find some loopholes in the act to avoid payment of wages or bonus fully and timely.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please confine to wages.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR : The wages which these labourers receive are very low and perhaps the lowest in the world. In face of this, if they are not paid regularly they would only face starvation. So, regular payment of wages is very essential for the sake of their life as also for the smooth running of the industry. But we find that in most cases this is not done and oftentimes there is labour trouble in the gardens due to the failure of the management to pay in

time. The labourers in most cases do not keep an account of the days for which they worked and it is for the management to calculate correctly and pay correctly. When a discrepancy occurs the management has to settle that amicably, and to see that no wage is lost to anybody. This resolution suggests that a Committee should be set up to suggest necessary measures to prevent these irregularities. It may however be argued that there is already a conciliation machinery and the Labour Department of the Government to look into these matters. But we find that the process and speed of work of the Labour Department is so slow and dilatory that it takes several months to arrive at a decision. Further, the existing labour legislation is defective. For example, there is a provision in the Payment of Wages Act according to which wages have to be paid within 7 days. But there are certain loopholes in the Act itself which sometimes give scope to the employer to avoid payment of wages within the stipulated period. If there is a dispute, management at once stops payment to their labour force. So, this Committee should also look into the legal and other aspects of the existing labour legislation so that all labour laws may be made comprehensive, unambiguous and simple to enable even the illiterate labourers to derive benefit from them. So, to meet the urgency of the situation it is imperative that a Committee be set up, if possible during the present session, so that the Committee can go into action at once and submit its reports before the close of the financial year.

With these words, Sir, I commend this Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Shri GOURI SANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे दोस्त श्री चौबेजी ने इस सदन में जो प्रस्ताव रखा है उसे समर्थन करने के लिये मैं खड़ा हुवा हूं।

माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज एक बहुत बड़ा संकट, एक बहुत बड़ी तथा विकट समस्या हमारे प्रान्त के चाय बगानों में उपस्थित हुई है। यह चाय बगानों के गरीब तथा पिछड़े हुवे श्रमिकों की समस्या है। एक गिरी हुई जनता की आवाज है, जिसे हम अपनी सरकार के पास पहुंचाना चाहते हैं। इस जटिल समस्या का उचित समाधान जल्द से जल्द होना चाहिये। इस समस्या का समाधान कराने के लिये हमारे श्रमिक भाई सरकार की ओर दृष्टि लगाये हुवे हैं। अब हमें जल्द से जल्द कोई ऐसा उपाय निकालना चाहिये जिससे हम इन गरीब भाइयों को बचा सके। यह प्रस्ताव बहुत ही बड़ा तथा महत्वपूर्ण है, जिसपर हमें गंभीरता पूर्वक विचार करना चाहिये, सोचना चाहिये और कोई ऐसा उपाय निकालने की कोशिश करनी चाहिये कि किस रूपसे हम चाय बगान में काम करनेवाले अभागे तथा गरीब श्रमिकों भाइयों को मालिकों के अन्याय आचरण और शोषणों से बचा सके तथा उन्हें अपने अधिकारों को दिला सकें।

हमलोग देख रहे हैं कि आज कहीं कहीं चाय बगान के मालिक अपने श्रमिकों को वेतन नहीं देते हैं। हम यह भी देखते हैं कि बगान के मालिक श्रमिकों को वेतन देने के बजाय अपने बगान को ही बन्द कर देते हैं। काछाड़ जिले में ऐसे दो बगान हैं जहाँ श्रमिकों को इस तरह की एक बहुत बड़ी मुसीबत का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। वे बगान हैं सन्धेलिया और चेनकुरी। पिछले दो महीनों से इन बगानों के मालिक लोग अपने श्रमिकों को वेतन नहीं दे रहे हैं। काछाड़ जिले के Deputy Commissioner, Labour Officer और Union भी Telegram दे रहे हैं। किन्तु बड़े अफसोस की बात है कि ये मालिक लोग कलकत्ते में बैठे वे मौज उड़ा रहे हैं और तमाशा देख रहे हैं। किसी की भी आवाज उनके कानों तक नहीं पहुँचती है। और न वे किसी की आवाज की परवाह ही करते हैं। इस हालत में क्या कोई ऐसा उपाय नहीं है, कोई ऐसा कानून नहीं है कि जिससे हम इन अभाग श्रमिकों की आवाज उनके कानों तक पहुँचवा सकें और उनको सही रास्ता पर ला सकें। सन्धेलिया और चेन्दकुरी बगान में करीब ८—९ सौ श्रमिक काम करते हैं। पिछले दो महीनों से उनको वेतन नहीं दिया जा रहा है। अब आप सोच सकते हैं कि इन गरीब भाइयों का हाल क्या हुवा होगा। उनका परिवार तथा बाल बच्चे हैं। दो दो महीनों तक वेतन न पाने से इन गरीब भाइयों का क्या बुरा हाल हुवा होगा। कितनी दयनीय दशा हो गयी है इनकी। अतीत में भी इस तरह तकलीफ और मुसीबतों का सामना इन भाइयों को करना पड़ा था और इसमें कोई सन्देह नहीं है कि भविष्य में भी उन्हें इस तरह के अन्यायों का शिकार होना पड़ेगा। इस तरह की मुसीबतों से श्रमिकों को बचाने के लिये हमें जल्द से जल्द कोई उचित उपाय निकालना चाहिये। कोई ऐसा प्रवन्ध करना चाहिये जिससे हम इन श्रमिक भाइयों को रक्षा कर सकें।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्रमिकों को अपना उचित अधिकार दिलाने के लिये Payment of Wages Act हैं। इससे उनको कोई फायदा नहीं हुवा है। यह Lengthy procedure है। हमें ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये जिससे Temporary relief की व्यवस्था हो और स्थायी रूपसे समस्याका समाधान हो। प्रस्तावक महोदय चाहते हैं कि इस महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर विचार विमर्श करने के लिये एक Committee बनायी जाय। यह बड़ा ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रस्ताव है। यह Committee जल्द से जल्द बननी चाहिये और इस पर विचार करना चाहिये कि हम कैसे श्रमिक भाइयों की समस्या को स्थायी रूपसे हल कर सकें और वर्तमान भी Relief दे सकें। उनकी समस्या का उचित समाधान कैसे हो इस पर सबको सोचना चाहिये। मैं इस प्रस्ताव का सादर समर्थन करता हूँ।

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words in support of this Resolution. It has become a serious problem for the entire State. Although this Resolution is confined to Cachar district, as my friend, Shri Borthakur has pointed out, the same problem exists everywhere in the State where many garden employers have failed to pay even the minimum wages to the daily wage earners and this is also the situation in our district. This problem which involves a far reaching principle exists in other parts of the State as well. Sir, the gardens who do not pay the minimum wages to their labourers of their own accord are quite a different thing, but the gardens who may be uneconomic and who could not pay their labourers and who are on the

verge of closing down their concern are a different matter altogether. So in this Resolution there are two aspects: one is for immediate relief of the Cachar Tea garden labourers who are without wages for the last two or three months and the other is about the uneconomic gardens who are not in a position to pay minimum wages to their labourers. Now, all on a sudden we cannot say whether the Government should take over these gardens because there is no legislation to the effect that Government can take over such gardens. It is also very difficult to say whether the State Government can run any ten gardens with their limited resources. So, Sir, this problem should be very carefully gone into by a committee constituted by Government which should immediately examine as to what amount of immediate relief can be given to these daily wage earners. Although this resolution is mainly concerned with the labourers working in the district of Cachar, I request the Government to extend the scope of the resolution so as to include the entire State of Assam, and the committee as envisaged under this resolution, when appointed, may be authorised to examine the conditions of the labourers of the tea gardens in the whole State. So, Sir, I fervently appeal to Government to make up their mind with regard to this vital problem which will entail a heavy expenditure on the Government. I only hope that the Government will see its way to constitute the committee immediately with a view to evolve certain immediate measures of relief. The Committee should try to suggest also long term measures for permanent benefit of these tea labourers. I also hope that the Government will bring in necessary legislative measures in the light of the findings of the Committee at an early date.

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

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar) : মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মানীয় ডাঃ চৌবেজীয়ে যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ ডাঙি ধৰিছে, সেইটো এটা সময়োপযোগী প্ৰস্তাৱ। কিন্তু তেখেতে অকল কাছাৰৰ বাগিচাৰ কথাহে উল্লেখ কৰিছে। আনফালে মই নিজে অসম উপত্যকাৰ চাহ বাগিচাবিলাকৰ অৱস্থা দেখিছোঁ। অসম উপত্যকাৰো কেইখনমান বাগিচাৰ অৱস্থাও তদুপ। অৱশ্যে মই চিলচৰৰ বাগানবিলাকতো ফুৰি ঘটনাৰ কিছু অনুসন্ধান কৰি আহিছোঁ। গতিকে এই প্ৰস্তাৱত যিটো 'কমিটি' গঠন কৰাৰ কথা কৈছে সেইটো গোটেই অসমৰ কাৰণে হ'লে ভাল হয়। ইয়াতে এইটো কথা স্বীকাৰ কৰিব লাগিব যে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ উপত্যকাৰ বাগিচা বিলাকতকৈ কাছাৰৰ বাগিচাৰ অৱস্থা বেচি শোচনীয়। গতিকে যদি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট বাজি হয় তেন্তে প্ৰথমতে কাছাৰৰ বাগিচাৰ সমস্যা হাতত লওক; তাৰ পিচতো অসমৰ অন্যান্য বাগিচাৰ সমস্যা সেই অনুসাবে হাতত লব। ইয়াৰ লগতে চাব লাগিব যাতে অতি কম সময়ৰ ভিতৰতে কমিটিয়ে কাছাৰৰ বাগানলৈ ৰিপোৰ্ট দাখিল কৰে তাৰ কাৰণেও চৰকাৰে কমিটিক নিৰ্দেশ দিব লাগে।

দেখা গৈছে যে দুই এখন বাগিচাত মালিকে মজদুৰ সকলক দুমাহৰ বেতন দিয়া নাই। এই মজদুৰ সকলৰ নিজৰ খেতিৰ ধানেৰে পোহপাল যোৱাটো সম্ভৱ নহয়। গতিকে চৰকাৰে এই সময়ত মজুৰ সকলক কিছু আৰ্থিক সাহায্য দিয়াটো নিতান্ত উচিত হ'ব।

কোনোবাই ক'ব পাৰে যে মালিকে বেতন নিদিলে চৰকাৰে মজদুৰক কিয় আৰ্থিক সহায় কৰিব লাগে। কিন্তু সকলোৱে এই কথা বুজা উচিত যে অসমত ধানখেতি আৰু চাহখেতিত নিয়োজিত জনসংখ্যাত মালিকৰ বা জমীদাৰৰ দায়িত্ব বুলি-গা এৰা দিব নোৱাৰি। অসমৰ চাহ খেতিয়ে ভাৰতৰ বৃহৎ বৈদেশিক মুদ্ৰা অৰ্জন কৰিছে। গতিকে চৰকাৰে এই মজদুৰ সকলক সাহায্য দিবই লাগিব। চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষে ইয়ো এটা ডাঙৰ সমস্যা। তেনেস্থলত অসমৰ চাহ বাগিচা বিলাকক যদি এটা আৰ্থিক গোট হিচাবে সংগঠন কৰা নহয়, তেন্তে আন দেশৰ লগত আজিৰ এই প্ৰতিযোগিতাৰ দিনত কেনেকৈ ফেৰ মাৰিব? দেখা যায় যে কিছুমান বাগিচাৰ মালিকৰ তেনেবোৰ কথাটো কোনো লক্ষ্যই নাই। বৰ্তমান সমস্যাত চৰকাৰে যদি এওঁলোকক Economic Development and control Act ৰ অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত কৰিব নোৱাৰে, তেন্তে মজদুৰ আৰু দেশৰ অৱস্থা কেনেকৈ ভাল হ'ব? কিছুমান বাগিচাত ২২।২৪ মোণ পাট উৎপন্ন কৰিছে, আনহাতে কিছুমানত মাত্ৰ ৫ৰ পৰা ১০ মোণতেই থকিবলগীয়া হৈছে। এয়ে যদি অৱস্থা হয় তেন্তে তেওঁলোকে প্ৰতিযোগিতাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত আগবাঢ়াৰ আশা নিচেই কম।

মনত ৰাখিব লাগিব যে, চাহে আমাৰ বৈদেশিক মুদ্ৰা অৰ্জন কৰে। গতিকে চাহ উৎপাদন নিম্নগামী হোৱাটো এটা গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ বিষয়।

গতিকে সকলো খুটি-নাটি ভালকৈ পৰীক্ষা কৰি এই প্ৰস্তাৱটো সদনে গ্ৰহণ কৰিব বুলি মই আশা কৰিলো।

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-west) : উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় ডাঃ চোৰে মহাশয় যে প্ৰস্তাব এনেছন সে বিষয়ে আমি দুই একটি কথা বলব।

বিশেষকৰে কাছাড়েৰ দুটা বাগানেৰ অৱস্থা অত্যন্ত শোচনীয়। অবশ্য আগামেৰ অন্যান্য যায়গাৰ বাগানেও তদ্রূপ অৱস্থাৰ উদ্ভব হ'তে পাৰে, কিন্তু কাছাড়েৰ দুটা বাগানেৰ অৱস্থা আমি নিজে বিশেষকৰে জানি। এ অৱস্থা আজকালকৰ দিনে জীৱন মরণেৰ সমস্যা। মানবতাৰ দিক দিয়ে মালিকদেৱৰ পক্ষে ইহা নিতান্ত দুঃখৰ ও অন্যায। সরকারেৰ দিক দিয়ে আইন প্ৰণয়ন ক'ৰে হলেও মজদুৰদেৱ ন্যায্য দাবী পৰণ করতে হ'বে। কাছাড় জেলাৰ ডেপুটী কমিশনাৰকে এ অৱস্থাৰ বিষয়ে জানানো হয়েছে, Union ও সাহায্যেৰ জন্য এগিয়ে এসেছে। এবাৰে পূজোৰ আগে তাদের অৱস্থা চৰমে উঠে, পূজা জাতীয় উৎসব, অৰ্থভাবে তাদের পক্ষে উৎসব পালন করা কষ্টকর ছিল। যদি এরকম অৱস্থা আরও কিছুদিন থাকে, তাহলে, ভগবান না করুণ, যে কোন সময় বাগানে অঘটন ঘটতে পাৰে। যাহা আগামেৰ দুই একটি বাগানে ইতিপূৰ্বে ঘটেছে, তখন হয়তো সরকারেৰও আয়ত্বেৰ বাহিৰে চলে যাবে। অতএব সময় থাকতেই কমিটি গঠন ক'ৰে Interim সময়ের জন্য মজুৰকে সরকারেৰ পক্ষ থেকে সাহায্যেৰ ব্যবস্থা করে দিতে হবে। Test relief হিসাবেই হউক অথবা Gratuitous relief হিসাবেই হউক, তাদের বাঁচাতে হবে। সরকারেৰ নিকট আমাৰ এই অনুৰোধ।

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINHA (Sonai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while I rise to support the resolution moved by my Friend, Dr. Ram Prasad Chaubey, I would like to say that the labour strength under the permanent roll is about 9 hundred and their dependents are about two to three thousands of these tea gardens. It is about for two months that they are not getting their wages. During the last Puja I saw for myself under what pitiable conditions these labourers had been passing their days when they came to the office of our Sramik Union for help. I know for myself that the Cachar Sramik Union gave some help. A few labourers also got help from the neighbouring villagers—about 4 to 6 rupees or 8 rupees during last Durga Pujah. Recently the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar and some other friends of the tea labourers also visited the area but the help and assistance given by them all is not at all sufficient to meet their requirements. As such, I would suggest to Government to give some immediate interim relief to these starving labourers. In this connection I would like to suggest further to Government that some Public Works Department work on test relief basis may also be allotted to the labourers. There is road from Silchar to Chinooree-Mohanpur, *via* Algin which, if Government so desire, may be taken up and the work allotted to these starving labourers on test relief basis. They require immediate help. The condition of the labourers is such that they cannot afford to wait till the findings of the proposed committee is out. Appointment of such a Committee, of course, is a great necessity, and I hope Government will surely lend their support to the question of appointment of a Committee as envisaged in the resolution, but to tide over the immediate hardship facing the labourers, Government will be pleased to act upon my humble suggestion and take up this road immediately so that the work may be allotted to the labourers and the labourers may get some immediate relief. This road can be taken up under Article 275 as a considerable number of tribal people are residing in that locality and by taking up this road immediately it will give some interim relief to the labourers. Sir, it will take some time to take any action by the Committee, so if this project is taken up immediately the helpless labourers may get some relief before any action is taken by the committee, therefore, Government should help the helpless labourers by taking up this project immediately.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Dr. Ram Prasad Chaubey.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : মাননীয়

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই সদনৰ সদস্য মাননীয়, ডাঃ বামপ্ৰসাদ চৌবে ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ আজি ডাঙি ধৰিছে তাক মই সমৰ্থন কৰো। ইয়াৰ লগতে মই কব খুজিছো যে, আজিৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক যুগত নিবনুৱা সমস্যা সমাধানৰ উপায় হিচাবে বৃহৎ শিল্প আৰু কুটীৰ শিল্পই আগুঠাই পাইছে আৰু দ্বিতীয় পৰিকল্পনাৰ অন্তৰ্গত চৰকাৰৰ আয়-ব্যয়ৰ আঁনিটো টকাপইছা ধৰা হৈছে। আনফালে আজি বহুতৰে ধাৰণা যে, বনুৱাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰতো চৰকাৰে বহুতো টকা খৰচ কৰিছে আৰু বনুৱাৰ উন্নতি হৈছে। অৱশ্যে বনুৱা সকলে যে কিছু টকা নাই পোৱা সেইটো মই কব খোজা নাই। মই কব খুজিছো যে, কেন্দ্ৰীয় অথবা ৰাজ্য চৰকাৰৰ যি ৰাজহ সেই ৰাজহৰ শতকৰা পাঁচ ভাগো বনুৱাৰ কাৰণে খৰচ কৰা হোৱা নাই। তথাপি চৰকাৰে যি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে তাৰবাবে চৰকাৰক ধন্যবাদ জনাওঁ। এতিয়া দেখা গৈছে অসমৰ চাহবাগিছা বিলাকৰ অৱস্থা ভাল হোৱাৰ ঠাইত কিছুমান বাগিছা সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে বন্ধ হৈছে আৰু কিছুমানৰ বন্ধ হওঁ হওঁ অৱস্থা। কাছাৰ জিলাৰ চাহ বাগিছা বিলাকৰ উৎপাদন শক্তি কমি অহাই বাগিছা বিলাকৰ অৱস্থা ক্ৰমে বেয়া হৈ আহিছে।

আমাৰ শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ ঔণ্ডুৰিজান বাগানত ৩০০ শ জন বনুৱা আছে তাৰ ভিতৰত ১৫০ জনে কাম কৰে। কিন্তু মালিকৰ দোষত আজি দুবছৰ ধৰি বাগিছা বন্ধ হৈ আছে। জনসাধাৰণৰ এনে অৱস্থাত যেতিয়া চৰকাৰে একালে নিবনুৱা সমস্যাৰ সমাধান কৰাত ব্যস্ত হবলগা হৈছে, আন ফালে এনেধৰণে বাগিছা বন্ধ হোৱাৰ ফলত নিবনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পাইছে। মই কওঁ যে আজি আমাৰ বনুৱা সকল বহুতো ক্ষেত্ৰত পিচপৰি আছে আৰু তেওঁলোকে ঠিকমতে আন্দোলন কৰিব জনা নাই। হয়তো এনে দিন আহিব যিদিনা এই বনুৱাই ঠিকমতে আন্দোলন কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হৈ উঠিব আৰু সেইকাৰণে তেওঁ-বিলাকলৈ আওকাণ কৰা আজি আমাৰ ঠিক নহব। এনেবিলাক আওকাণৰ ফলতেই সেই সম্বন্ধে প্ৰস্তাৱ আছে। সেইটো হৈছে ৯ ম প্ৰস্তাৱ শ্ৰীযুত গৌৰীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য দেৱৰ। সেই কাৰণে মই কওঁ যে, মূল প্ৰস্তাৱটোত যিটো কমিটি গঠন কৰিবলৈ দাবী কৰিছে সেইটো কৰাৰ সময় উকলি গৈছে—বহু আগতে হোৱা উচিত আছিল। এই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰক আগতে বহুবাৰ ধৰা হৈছে আৰু চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰপৰা এনে ব্যৱস্থা লোৱাৰ কোনো উপায় নাই বুলি উত্তৰো পাইছো। আজি ৮।৯ বছৰ ধৰি এই জটিল সমস্যাটো চলি আছে। একালে দুই এজন মালিকৰ দিনত বহু সংখ্যক শ্ৰমিকৰ প্ৰাণ যাওঁ যাওঁ হৈছে আৰু আনফালে চৰকাৰৰপৰা উপযুক্ত ব্যৱস্থা নোলোৱা হেতু সমস্যাই দিনক দিনে জটিলৰ ফালে আগবাঢ়ি গৈছে। এনে মনোবৃত্তি চৰকাৰে ললে নহব। ইয়াকে কৈ মই প্ৰস্তাৱটি সমৰ্থন কৰো আৰু ইয়াকো কওঁ যে, কাছাৰ জিলাৰ চাহ-বাগিছা সম্পৰ্কত যি কমিটি গঠিত হব সি যেন কাৰ্য্যকৰী ভাৱে হয় আৰু তাৰপৰা যেন ক্ষীপ্ৰ গতিৰে কাম হয়। কাৰণ এনে কৰিলেহে দুৰ্ভাগীয়া বনুৱাসকলক সহায় কৰা হব। ইয়াকে কৈ মই মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণী মাৰিলো।

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : Mr.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I am very closely associated with the Chah Karmacharis of Assam, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not speak a few words in support of this Resolution. Sir, in supporting this Resolution I beg to point out before the House that not only these labourers are not getting their regular wages but in some other gardens also these people are not getting their wages for some months and in the case of the Chah Karmacharis, specially in some Indian owned-Tea Gardens, some Karmacharis are not getting their pay and other facilities regularly.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Karmacharis are not labourers, please confine to the word labourers.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : But they are also employees of the tea gardens and the Resolution concerns with irregular payment of their wages.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : They are not labourers.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Any way, Sir, my submission to the Government is that while constituting the Committee this aspect of the matter may also be considered equally with labourers, and if necessary, some representatives of that Organisation may be included in that proposed Committee.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Dr. Ram Prasad Chaubey.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমার বন্ধু সদস্য, শ্রীরামপ্রসাদ চৌবে যে প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করেছেন তা অত্যন্ত জরুরী। বাগিচা শিল্পে আজ কাছাড় যে সঙ্কট দেখা দিয়েছে এখনই যদি সরকার সে সম্পর্কে কোন ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ না করেন তবে সেটা এমন পর্যায়ে-নেমে যাবে, তখন হয়ত তা নিয়ন্ত্রণ করা কষ্টসাধ্য হবে।

কাছাড় মূলত কৃষিপ্রধান জিলা। গত কয়েক বৎসর ধরে বন্যায় কাছাড়ের কৃষকদের মেরুদণ্ড ভেঙ্গে গিয়েছে। এবৎসর প্রাকৃতিক পরিবেশ বেশ ভাল থাকায় সেখানে আউস ফসল পর্যাপ্ত ফলেছে। শাইল ধানের ফসলও ভাল হয়েছে বলে আশাকরা যায়। ফলে ধান-চালের বাজার দাম এত নেমে গিয়েছে যে কৃষক ধান-চাল বিক্রী করে নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষের দামেরসঙ্গে তাল রেখে চলতে পারছেন। ফলে কাছাড়ের কৃষি অর্থনীতি আজ বিপন্ন।

গত ১৯৫২-৫৩ সালে যে সময় বাগানগুলি বন্ধ হয়ে গিয়েছিল, তখন ফসলের দাম ভাল থাকায় বাগানের বেকার শ্রমিক গ্রামে কাজ পেয়েছিল। কিন্তু এবৎসর সেটা সম্ভব নয় বলে আমি মনে করি। সঙ্কটাপন্ন কৃষি সমস্যা স্বল্প আয়বিশিষ্ট চাষাগানের বেকার শ্রমিক সমস্যা এবং বেকার উদ্বাস্তু বাহিনী এই সব মিলে কাছাড়ের হকে এক বিরাট সঙ্কট দেখা দিয়েছে। আশাকরি সরকার এই সমস্যাতে এখনই হস্তক্ষেপ করে, সমাধানের পথ খুঁজে বার করবেন। এই বলেই আমি, শ্রীচৌবেজীর প্রস্তাবকে সমর্থন জানালাম।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) : মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই মাননীয় শ্রীচৌবে ডাঙরীয়াই যি প্রস্তাবটো দাঙি ধরিছে তাববাবে ধন্যবাদ জনাইছোঁ। আমাৰ ডিব্ৰুগড়তে চাহবাগিচাৰ মজদুৰ সকলে দৰমহা ঠিকমতে নোপোৱাৰ বাবে যি হাঁহাকাৰত তেওঁলোক পৰিবলগীয়া হৈছে সেইটো নিজে দেখিছোঁ। Conciliation Board এইবোৰ কথা উত্থাপন কৰাৰ আগতে management এ মজদুৰ সকলক কিছু টকা দি দিয়ে। টকাৰ হাঁহাকাৰত থকা মজদুৰে আংশিক পাওনাকে লবলৈ বাধ্য হয়। আইন অনুযায়ী আকৌ আংশিক পাওনা management এ জদুৰক দিলেই Conciliation Boardত কোনো কথা আলোচনা হব নোৱাৰে।

তাৰ পাচত management ব দোকান বোৰত খুব সস্তীয়া কাপোৰ ইত্যাদি বা বেচন-পত্ৰ বেচি দামত মজদুৰ সকলক লবলৈ বধ্য কৰায়। কোনো পৰব ইত্যাদিৰ সময়ত হাতত টকা নথকাৰ কাৰণেই মজদুৰ মহিলাসকল এইবোৰ দোকানৰ সস্তীয়া কাপোৰ সৰহ দামত কিনিবলৈ বাধ্য হৈ পৰে। এইবোৰ যে ঘটনা চাহবাগিছাবোৰত চলি আছে, তাক বন্ধ কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে এনে ঘটনা চলিয়েই থাকিব। সেই কাৰণে আজি এই সদনত যিখন কমিটি গঠন হোৱাৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰা হৈছে সেই প্ৰস্তাৱ সদনে গ্ৰহণ কৰা উচিত কাৰণ এই কমিটিৰ যোগেদি চাহ বনুৱাসকলৰ উপকাৰ হব বুলি মোৰ বিশ্বাস।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to my Friend, Shri Chaubey, for bringing in this resolution before the House. He has focussed a very important question of public importance on the floor of the House. The number of hon. Members who have participated in this debate also shows the importance of the matter. It is true that a pretty big section of the people in Assam is dependent on their employment in the tea gardens and many of these people have got no subsidiary income other than the wages they derive from tea gardens. But the difficulty is if the management is not in proper hands these people are likely to be in great distress. The situation can arise in two ways. There are some tea gardens in Assam which are marginal in nature or which are really uneconomic. Even if the owners do not desire to put the labourers into trouble yet unawares the trouble comes to the labourers for the inability of the owners to pay them regularly and adequately. Yet there are some other managements who deliberately, in order to create difficulties for the labourers, to compel them to submit to their terms, often resort to underpayment or non-payment to the labourers. Now, therefore, if the management is in bad hands serious situation is likely to arise in many places in Assam in tea gardens. It is true that in order to avoid these difficulties there are certain laws, i.e., to enforce payment through Minimum Wages Act and Payment of Wages Act. But I agree that the procedure laid down in these Acts does not always give a speedy remedy. In these matters under these Acts certain procedures have got to be followed. These laws are not the laws of the Assam Government; those were enacted by the Central Government. We are not in a position to expedite things much through these Acts. Naturally if one takes resort to a Law Court one has got to suffer some from some amount of delay. In such proceedings generally a lot of people are involved and as such it is not always possible also to take resort to so many legal proceedings for each one of the large number of labourers involved. Therefore, Sir, it is really a very serious question that has confronted not only the labourers but also the Government

as to how this problem can be solved. But while considering this matter dispassionately, certain very serious problems do come before us. First of all, if it is a question of tea gardens which are economic, which are earning profits and where the owners take resort to such course, *viz.*, if the owners do not pay regularly their labourers for same reasons, it is very easy for the Government to take up these tea gardens just like the estates which are taken up by Government, say, under the Court of Wards. In that case Government can manage the gardens and pay the labourers regularly. But that is not always the case. There are many tea gardens in Assam, particularly in Cachar District, which are uneconomic. Now is the Government of Assam in a position to take up all these properties to manage them? If they do so, then the question that comes before us is that all the deficit financing will have to be undertaken by the State. Therefore, the question needs a serious study. I am sure the House will agree with me that the Government of Assam is not in a position to take up all these uneconomic tea gardens and go on paying the losses year after year for nothing out of the State Exchequer. Now if there is the hope that within a short time these gardens will become economic and the Government will get back the money thus invested then possibly the Government will not hesitate in actively considering the question of taking up these tea gardens. But that is not the case in most of the places. Therefore, Sir, although this resolution has raised a serious question it needs very deep study and it needs study by experts who are in the line, who have life-long association with the labourers and also with the management of tea gardens and their economy. I am extremely sympathetic with this resolution. I would have, in fact, accepted this resolution straightway if these difficulties were not there. Therefore, my submission to this House is that although I agree with the Mover of the resolution that there is need of appointment of such a Committee to examine the problem, I am not in a position to accept it outright in toto, as it is, because of two reasons. I do not think a serious problem like this with so many financial, administrative and other very serious problems, can be studied properly by a Committee to be headed by a lay man like the Minister of Labour. Therefore, although I agree to the formation of a Committee like this I am not yet clear if it should be headed by the Minister of Labour himself. It involves the questions of the availability of a huge amount of finances of the Government, of nationalisation of the properties of some private persons and of the capability of the Government to run the business properly. I feel, such a problem can only be studied properly by economists,

financiers, people with long experience in the administration of tea gardens and also by trade unionist. Sir, this problem is no doubt very acute in Cachar district, but this problem is also there throughout Assam. In fact my friend, Shri Saikia, has brought another resolution for consideration of labourers of Rajabarie and Ratanpur Tea Estates in Sib-sagar subdivision wherein it has been suggested that they should be taken up by the Government for State management. Sir, this Government is keen to consider the question for the whole of Assam. Therefore, I do not want to confine myself, by accepting the Resolution, that the Committee should be appointed to investigate the cases of the district of Cachar only. Therefore, Sir, I personally would like and the Government also would like that this question should be examined for the benefit of the whole of Assam and not for Cachar district alone. For this reason, Sir, although the Government has all the sympathy for this Resolution we are unable to accept it in its present form. But we are prepared to accept the principle that we shall appoint a Committee to investigate into this problem not only for the district of Cachar but for the whole of Assam. In this connection I assure the House that I propose to appoint the Committee as early as possible, if possible, immediately. I would like to say that the Committee will give us an interim report as to how the present problem can be solved. There are two sides of the problem: one is a short term one and the other a long term one. The consideration of the question of the long term solution would necessarily take some time and will require much consideration and may be, correspondence with the Government of India, because it may be known to the House that there is a fund under the Tea Board and possibly from that fund the situation as stated in the Resolution can be met. As the long term side of the matter would necessarily take some time, the question of giving some interim relief to these people is necessary and this aspect of the matter is receiving the active consideration of the Government. Shri Nanda Kishore Sinha has pointed out that some relief can be given to these labourers by giving them employment by taking some projects under the Public Works Department. I assure the hon. Member that we shall examine this question. As a matter of fact this question is already receiving the attention of the Government and the Government will certainly do as much as possible even before getting the interim report of the Committee submitted to the Government as that may also take some time.

Sir, I am extremely sorry that I am not in a position to accept the Resolution as it is. But since I have accepted the

principle of the Resolution that I shall see that a Committee is appointed as early as possible for the whole of Assam including Cachar I hope the hon. Member of the Resolution will withdraw his Motion.

Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur) : Sir, In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution with the leave of the House was withdrawn.

Resolution *Re* : The formation of a Committee to reform the administrative machinery of the Government of Assam.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is opinion that a Committee consisting of experts and public men be appointed to examine the present administrative machinery of Government and to suggest comprehensive measures for reorganising the structure, the rules of procedure, recruitment, training and all other connected matters of Government services, with view to (i) making the administration more democratic and responsive to popular aspirations, (ii) decentralising the administration so as to increase the extent, scope and effectiveness of popular control at all levels, (iii) achieving greater efficiency and promptness, (iv) decreasing the incidence of corruption and wastage and (v) promoting popular enthusiasm and conscious participation in nation-building activities.

I think, I need not give an elaborate explanation of the Resolution because I have made it as comprehensive as possible and I do not claim any originality in this line of thinking. Nor do I think that I am the single member to think in the line of the Resolution before this House. As a matter of fact this was long over-due, because the change in political, social and economic situation in our country demands a change of the administrative machinery from what it was during the

British rule. We all know that an administrative machinery is not an end in itself, but it is a means for an end. The end is good Government, good governance of the country. We know that in different countries there may be different types of Government. I mean that a type of administrative machinery which might be quite suitable for a particular type of Government, may not be quite suitable for another type of Government. For example, even in England different phases of its political development had to adapt to different shapes in their own Administration. When England was under Feudal Rule there were Barons, Knights, and so on, but as capitalism developed, there in England itself the administrative machinery changed. When the Britishers came to this country and established a colonial regime they applied a type of administrative machinery which was essentially different from the administrative machinery of the Moghul Emperors, Nawabs, Rajas, Maharajas or Indian Princes. British administration in India was fitted for colonial rule for a police Raj. When gradually we began to get home rule and when gradually there came diarchy then at that time some amount of popular control was felt necessary and from that time upward the administrative machinery was being sought to be changed because that did not fit in with the changed and changing requirements of the country. After independence there has come not quantitative but qualitative change and we are no longer in a regime of colonialism and it cannot afford to be a police Raj. Instead, it is professedly a State based on social justice, a State pledged to the principle of socialism, and people's welfare. In other words, it is a welfare State in a socialistic structure. A socialistic pattern of society has been proposed to be set up. So, it is quite apparent that the machinery which was fit for a police Raj, the machinery which was fit for political and economic exploitation of the people, cannot be the machinery appropriate for a system which is pledged to socialism, which is pledged to welfare of the people. Moreover, we have seen that national development projects and a schemes undertaken by the Government have touched almost all the aspects of social life of our people. We find that the administrative machinery comes in contact with the people almost every day, in every sphere of our social existence. No longer can we say that the citizen's duty is only to pay revenue or taxes and the Government's business is only to maintain law and order. This is no longer the situation in our country. If I may say so, we must see that our administrative machinery be such as to represent the changed social, economic and political situation in the country so that it reflects the needs and aspirations of the people, so

that it becomes so effective and efficient that it can achieve the goal that we profess. With this end in view, I have brought this suggestion before the House.

My resolution can be divided into three parts. The central theme in my resolution is the appointment of a Committee. I have not gone to suggest any name because I feel that the Government should give very careful attention and should consider all the pros and cons in the appointment of such a committee. The Committee should contain not only experts who know the art and science of administration and who have also experience, but this committee should also have public men who have got experience of the people, who know the requirements of the people, their hopes and aspirations, etc. I think Government will be careful enough to see that both these elements are represented in the Committee, so that there is experience as well as imagination. When both these things are combined, the Committee will be able to function effectively and deliver the goods.

Now, what will be the aim of this Committee? I have given here five suggestions. I have suggested that the Committee will see that the administration is more democratic and that it is responsive to popular aspirations. Then, we see at present that except the legislature we have no other organ in the State where popular feelings can be expressed and popular demands raised. We have seen that even in the legislature itself what was its scope and sphere, say five years ago, is no longer sufficient in to-day's context. For example, to-day we are feeling the necessity of an effective Estimates Committee, of Public Accounts Committee, Assurances Committee, and so on and so forth. But five years ago or seven years ago this necessity was not so acutely felt. The reason is very simple. At that time Government was not so comprehensive in its field of activity as it is to-day and, therefore, the legislature itself is changing in its approach and also in its activities. And yet this legislature is not the be-all-and-end-all of what we desire and what we need to-day. We have seen that from the village level upto the State level, there are different *strata* of activities. At present a district officer is not answerable to the people in that district for his activities. If something bad, something questionable or something unpopular is done by a district administrator and if a popular answer is to be had from him, the only forum is the legislature. Now, the Ministers cannot be all-perceiving; they are not omniscient and omnipresent. They have to depend on files and ask for reports from

the very district administrator against whom the allegation is made and he can frame his report in the way he likes. The result is that there are always answers from the Government which, as a matter of fact, become eye-wash or evasion. This is not always purposeful. I do not say that the Ministers purposely or willingly want to suppress facts or they want to evade answers. But the point is that they are to see through the files and these files are very many and cumbersome. Now-a-days there are community development projects, the national extension service blocks, the co-operative movement, rural credit and so on and so forth. The administration comes to the village and almost everybody is connected with it. Whether it be for taking some loan for agricultural purposes, or for marketing his agricultural produce, the villager does come in contact with the Government machinery. But how can we expect our Ministers here to see and properly appreciate the things that are done on village level or circle level or thana level? The result is that however much we may be talking of democracy and our lofty ideals, they are not actually seen in practice and as a consequence we find that there is a great deal of scepticism, a great deal of cynicism in the minds of our people. Some of our responsible leaders, including the Chief Minister himself, had said that in Assam people felt that they were not actually enjoying the fruits of freedom. Our venerable friend Rev. Nichols-Roy said this very thing from this side of the House, Capt. Williamson Sangma also said the same thing. How is it that all of us, whether in the Opposition or in the Treasury benches, all feel that in spite of our lofty ideals and tall talks and the sincere efforts on the part of some, the people do not feel that they have been enjoying the fruits of freedom and that they are equal partners in the building of a nation which is pledged for the establishment of full democracy? Where is the rub? I think the rub is in the administration. However noble our aspiration may be and however hoarse we may say it from the housetop, it is bound to be barren unless and until there is an administrative machinery to make it effective and bring it home to the people. We find that in spite of these principles and our professions, they are not put in practice and the people feel that they are not taken into confidence. They do not feel that they are equal participants in these activities, in this struggle to achieve our economic freedom and abundance.

That is why Community Development Projects are failing. What do the people say about the projects? They say, "they" have started some projects. They do not say that they "themselves" have started the projects, and they say only that they

(I mean the Government) have started some projects. Even when good things like mobile dispensaries and mobile libraries are concerned they do not say, "Well, these our mobile dispensaries and our mobile libraries." Even where such positive and concrete help has been given to the people, they do not feel that positive and concrete help from the Government is their own creation and achievements. So long as there is not this feeling in the mind of the people in the country, in the humblest of the humble and so long as the idea of equal partnership in the advancement of the country as a whole is not there, the advancement of democracy is bound to be retarded. Therefore, I feel that we should consider all these aspects very carefully, and to do this it would not be enough to centralise everything. There is a feeling in the country that things are kept centralised and that one man or one office is taking too many responsibilities. If everything is centralised in one man or office it will be a defect of democracy. In a democracy there should be not centralisation of everything in one office or man. The strength of democracy lies in the morale of the people and their collective efforts. Unless and until people are really made strong, democracy will remain only on paper and not in practice. Hence there should be decentralisation of power and decentralisation of activities. When this is done, *i.e.*, when decentralisation of power and decentralisation of activities is achieved, there would be real happiness for the people. For this purpose we must have an efficient but democratic administrative machinery. We shall be discussing the baneful results of over-centralisation when the supplementary budget is placed before the House. I do not like to dilate upon this point at this stage. Side by side with decentralisation of power and decentralisation of activities, there should be a popular control also in the lower level of the administration.

When this sort of things is done, we shall see that there is efficient administration. Sir, I hope you will kindly permit me to give one instance. We all know that at the present moment there is apprehension of more acute food problem next year not only in Assam but in India as a whole due to drought. Everyone agrees that we should have other crops like 'Rabi' or 'Boro paddy' to overcome the difficulty. The other day I had gone into the interior, the border of my constituency and the constituency of our Education Minister with a view to help the people for the solution of the food problem. I held meetings and persuaded them that they should come to the Project Executive Officer, Sonapur. The Executive Officer was good enough to accompany us to Gauhati.

Then we had to go to meet the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner sent the papers to the Sub-Deputy Collector, the Sub-Deputy Collector sent the papers to the Settlement Officer, the Settlement Officer sent the papers again to the Assistant Settlement Officer, and then the Assistant Settlement Officer sent the papers back to the Settlement Officer who sent them back to the Sub-Deputy Collector because at that time of settlement operation was going on paper. So there was such a circuitous movement. I must be thankful to the Project Executive Officer for taking all the trouble in getting the papers. Now, some procedure should be evolved with a view to avoid all this unnecessary delay and redtapism. It is essential that the administrative machinery should work with promptitude. I submit that oftener than not delay defeats the very purpose, and subsequently one does not really become appreciative of the belated help. I need not perhaps give any more illustration that there is delay at every step on the part of our administration. There is corruption and inefficiency in our administrative machinery, and there is wastage of public money. The administrative machinery should be so devised as to generate popular initiative and popular control in the local developmental affairs. Unless and until our 35 crore of people in India become soldiers of our national development activities, in spite of our First Five-Year Plan, the Second Five-Year Plan and any other plan we shall not reach the goal that we want to reach. The food problem itself is a pointer to this. We wanted to solve this problem as early as 1952. Now it is 1957 and we are nowhere near the solution of the problem. So the most important thing is to generate the popular initiative in our nation building activities, so that the condition of thousands of our people could be alleviated.

I have suggested that there should be a Committee for complete overhauling and thorough change of our administrative machinery, and in doing so, I have suggested certain specific things. This Committee will make a comprehensive study of the structure, the rules of procedure, recruitment and training and all other connected matters of Government service. If steps are taken in that direction with a view to benefit the people in socialistic and democratic ideas, then the bottle-neck with which we are confronted today may be removed. By this I do not mean to say that the Government is oblivious to remove all these difficulties. The Government of India now practically followed the recommendations of the Gorwala Committee and many other States in India have done so. Our Government also recently have had these things

considered in the District Officers' Conference which was held in Shillong and which was addressed by the Chief Minister and Finance Minister and also by the Chief Secretary. All these are only from one end. My Resolution suggests that there should be a comprehensive approach. Not only that, the District Officers will come and place their immediate difficulties, for example, in the matter of collection of land revenue or in the matter of giving or realising rural agricultural loans and so on, but not the entire aspect of administration. Sir, as I have already said, very good principles also remain buried if there is not a machinery to put them in action. I think all of us agree in this, that in our State an effective machinery is lacking and we also agree that of late we have not been able to evolve such a machinery. I hope and trust that Government will take up the matter and Government will have no difficulty in accepting my Resolution which is only in the form of placing some suggestions which I think are urgently necessary for the good of the country.

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

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabor) : মাননীয়

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় সদস্য শ্রীভট্টাচার্য ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ উত্থাপন কৰিছে, মই তাৰ সমৰ্থন জনাইছোঁ। আপোনালোক সকলোৱে এই সদনৰ গুৰুত্ব নিশ্চয় উপলব্ধি কৰিছে। দেশ শাসনত এই সদনৰ গুৰুত্ব অতি গভীৰ। কিন্তু সদনৰ সকলো কাৰ্য্য-কলাপ কাৰ্য্যকৰী হয়—শাসন যন্ত্ৰৰ জৰীয়তে। আমাৰ শাসন যন্ত্ৰত যি কেৰোণ বিদেশী শাসনৰ কালবেপৰা চলি আছে, সেই কেৰোণ আজিলৈকে দূৰ কৰা হোৱা নাই। সেই কাৰণে ৰাইজৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগ বিলাক আমি যিদৰে দূৰ কৰিব পাৰিব লাগিছিল সেইদৰে কাৰ্য্যত হৈ উঠা নাই। আশা কৰিছিলোঁ, দেশ স্বাধীন হোৱাৰ লগে লগে শাসন যন্ত্ৰটোৰ আমূল পৰিবৰ্ত্তন হব; কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় আজিলৈকে সেই একেদৰেই আছে।

শাসন যন্ত্ৰৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তন আনিবলৈ হলে Administration Expert অৰ দ্বাৰা কমিটি গঠন কৰা প্ৰয়োজন বুলি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট অনুভৱ কৰিব। অৱশ্যে এনেকুৱা বিশেষজ্ঞৰ প্ৰয়োজন নিশ্চয় হব। কিন্তু Expert সকলৰ লগতে এই সদনৰ সভ্য সকলৰ নিচিনা অবিশেষজ্ঞ মানুহৰো প্ৰয়োজন নাই বুলি মোৰ বিশ্বাস নহয়। বহুত সময়ত অবিশেষজ্ঞৰ উপদেশ যথেষ্ট মূল্যবান হৈ পৰা আমি দেখিছোঁ। গতিকে মই কব খোজো যে কমিটিয়ে Expert ৰ লগতে layman একো সভ্য কৰি লোৱাটো অতি বাঞ্ছনীয় হব। লগতে এটা কথা মই জনাব খোজো যে চৰকাৰে কৃষক, ব্যৱসায়ী, আৰু অন্যান্য সকলৰ যি ধাৰ দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা আছে, সেই ধাৰ অনেক সময়ত দেখা যায় যে দৰকাৰী সময়ত তেওঁলোকে নাপায়। খেতিয়কে খেতিৰ সময়ত গৰু কিনিবৰ কাৰণে বিচৰা ঋণ খেতি পাব হৈ যোৱাৰ পিচতহে হয়তো পায়, এনে অৱস্থাত চৰকাৰে যি ধাৰ দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা ৰাখিছে তাৰ প্ৰকৃত উদ্দেশ্য কাৰ্য্যত পৰিণত হৈ নুঠেগৈ। এটা ঘটনাৰ কথা কওঁ, যোৰহাটত এবাৰ বানপানী হৈছিল। তেতিয়া বিশ্বস্ত গাঁওবোৰ চাবলৈ যাওঁতে তাৰ Deputy Commissioner আৰু Relief and Rehabilitation

Extra Assistant Commissioner মোৰ লগতে আছিল । এওঁলোকে গাঁওবাসীৰ দুবৰস্থা দেখি কলে যে, গাঁওবাসী সকলক বাৰ বেচিকৈ কঠিয়া নষ্ট হৈ তেওঁলোকক ক্ষতিৰ শতকৰা ৫০% দিব পাৰিলেও তেওঁলোকৰ যথেষ্ট উপকাৰ হয় তেতিয়া তেওঁলোকে সেইমতে Sub-Deputy Collector আৰু পঞ্চায়তক কলে ইয়াৰ এটা হিচাব উলিয়াই আমাক দিব । সেইমতে তেওঁলোকে অনুসন্ধান কৰি এটা হিচাব দিলে । সাহায্য পাব বুলি বাইজৰ মাজত প্ৰচাৰ হৈ পৰিল । পিচত সেই গ'ল সাহায্য দিয়াৰ কোনো উম্বানো নাই । পিচত মই তেওঁলোকক কলে আপোনালোকে নিজেই মোক উচিতাই দি এতিয়া কিয় মোক বাইজৰ আগত ওলাব নোৱাৰে ? তেতিয়া তেওঁলোকে কলে, “এতিয়া খেতিৰ সময় পাব হৈ গ'ল, এতিয়া আৰু চৰকাৰে ক'ত টকা দিব ?” কিন্তু বানপানীৰ সময়ত খেতিৰ সময় পাব হব নোৱাৰে ডেৰমাহ বাকী আছিল । অৱশ্যে তেওঁলোকক মই দোষী কৰা নাই । তেওঁলোকে হয়তে কাগজ এডোখৰ ছিলঙলৈ পঠিয়াই দিলে, সেই কাগজ আহি ক'ত পৰি থাকিল তাৰ ঠিক নাই । এই এটা আমাৰ শাসন যন্ত্ৰৰ বেমেজালিৰ দৃষ্টান্ত । চিলং অফিচেই বোলক কৰা জিলা অফিচেই বোলক বা বিভাগীয় অফিচতে বোলক সকলোতে সেই একে বেমেজালি চলিয়েই আছে । আৰু এটা দৃষ্টান্ত দিওঁ, এজন গাঁৱৰ মাটিহীন মানুহক চৰকাৰে মাটি দিছিল । সেই মানুহজনে সেই মাটিত কিছু টকা খৰচ কৰিছিল । পিছত সেই মাটি ডোখৰ আন এজন মানুহক দি দিলে । গাঁৱৰ মানুহ জনৰ টকাও গ'ল, মাটিও গ'ল । পিচত এই বিষয়ে আপত্তি কৰাত মোক জনালে, যে মানুহজনে সংশ্লিষ্ট মণ্ডলজনক চিনাক্ত কৰি দিব নোৱাৰিলে, সেই খেতিয়কজন আহি মোক কলে যে, তেওঁক “মণ্ডলজনক চিনাক্ত কৰি দিবলৈ কোনেও কোৱা নাছিল । ” সেই মণ্ডল জনেই তেওঁক দিয়া মাটি নেদেখুৱাই আন এডোখৰ মাটি জংঘলৰ মাজত দেখুৱাই দিলে । এই কথাটো মই জিলা ডেপুটি কমিচনাৰলৈ লিখিলো যে, “তেওঁ মণ্ডল জন চিনাক্ত কৰি দিব পাৰে । ” খেতিয়ক জনেও অৱশ্যে চিনাক্ত কৰিবলৈ সাজু, আৰু এতিয়া শুনিবলৈ পাইছো যে সমস্যাটো মীমাংসা কৰাৰ পথত আগবাঢ়িছে ।

কাকডোঙা ফৰেষ্ট বিজাৰ্তত বহুত মানুহক মাটি দিছে । কিন্তু সেই মাটি বহুত উপযুক্ত মানুহেও নেপালে । বহুতক বেদখল কৰি মাটিহীন মানুহক উচ্ছেদ কৰিলে । মাটি নোপোৱাৰ দুখত এজন যুৱকে অনশন আৰম্ভ কৰিবলৈ সংকল্প লৈছিল আৰু ফৰেষ্ট সকলোৱে মাটি পালে । ইয়াৰ পৰা এইটোৱেই ঠাৱৰ হ'ল যে আমি জনসাধাৰণক আন্দোলন কৰিবলৈ আগবঢ়াই নিছো । এনেকুৱা পৰিস্থিতিত এই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ যথেষ্ট গুৰুত্ব আছে আৰু এই প্ৰস্তাৱমতে যি কমিটি গঠন কৰিবলৈ শ্ৰীভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই প্ৰস্তাৱ কৰিছে তাক মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছোঁ ।

Shri RAMNATH SARMAH (Lumding) উপাধ্যক্ষ
মহোদয়, মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিছে, সেই প্ৰস্তাৱটো মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছোঁ । গণতান্ত্ৰিক দেশৰ মানুহে সাধাৰণতে সুদক্ষ প্ৰশাসন বিচাৰে। স্বাভাৱিক কথা । কিন্তু ভাৰতৰ দৰে নতুনকৈ স্বাধীন হোৱা দেশ এখনত সুদক্ষ প্ৰশাসন নহ'ব পাৰে, কিন্তু সু-প্ৰশাসন অৰ্থাৎ (Good Government) ভাল প্ৰশাসন হোৱাটো নিতান্ত বাঞ্ছনীয় । আজি আমি চেষ্টা কৰিছো দেশখন উন্নত কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আৰু তাৰ বাবে বিভিন্ন পৰিকল্পনাও হাতত লোৱা হৈছে । কিন্তু আমি দেখিবলৈ পাইছো যে আমাৰ শাসন যন্ত্ৰটো আজি প্ৰায় অচল হৈ পৰিছে । আজি আমি প্ৰত্যেকেই অনুভৱ কৰিছো যে, আমাৰ শাসন যন্ত্ৰটোত হয় মামৰে ধৰিছে, নহয় ঘূৰে ধৰিছে বা ইয়াৰ কোনো জু টিলা হৈছে । এই কথা প্ৰতিজন সদস্য আৰু প্ৰতিজন মন্ত্ৰীয়ে অনুভৱ কৰিছে ; আৰু ইয়াৰ প্ৰতিকাৰৰ বাবে দিহা কৰাৰ প্ৰচেষ্টা চলিছে । এই কেৰোণবোৰ ওচৰৰ বাবে তথ্য বাহিৰ কৰাৰ কথাও সকলোৱে চিন্তা কৰিছে ।

আজি এবছৰৰ আগতে অকল অসমতে কিয় সমগ্ৰ ভাৰততে খাদ্য সমস্যাত self sufficient হোৱা বুলি ঘোষণা কৰা হ'ল। কিন্তু আজি এবছৰৰ ভিতৰতে খাদ্য সমস্যাত কি অৱস্থা হ'ল? খাদ্যৰ কাৰণে আমি অন্যান্য দেশৰ ওচৰত হাত পাতিবলগীয়া হৈছে। আজি আমাৰ জনপ্ৰিয় নেতা জৱাহৰলাল নেহেৰুৱেও এই কথা স্বীকাৰ কৰিছে। দেশৰ খাদ্যাভাৱ পৰিস্থিতি দুৰীকৰণৰ কাৰণে বিভিন্ন পন্থা হাতত লবলগীয়া হৈছে। শাসন যন্ত্ৰৰ পৰিচালক সকলৰ এই শিথিলতাটো বৰ পৰিতাপৰ বিষয়।

আমি সমাজতান্ত্ৰিক সমাজ ব্যৱস্থা স্বীকাৰ কৰি গৈছো। কিন্তু আজি আমি সেই সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাৰ ফালে আগবাঢ়িব পৰা নাই। গণতান্ত্ৰিক দেশত স্বভাৱতে দলীয় চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰচলন হয় আৰু শাসন যন্ত্ৰত অধিষ্ঠিত দলৰ আদৰ্শ আৰু নীতিৰ ভিত্তিত চৰকাৰ গঢ়ি দিয়া হয় আৰু পৰিচালিত হয়। মোৰ বিশ্বাস আজি যি দলীয় নীতিত চৰকাৰ পৰিচালিত হৈছে, তাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে শাসন যন্ত্ৰৰ দায়িত্ব থকা দলৰ আদৰ্শ আৰু সকলো প্ৰশাসনৰ নীতি অধ্যয়ন বা অভিজ্ঞতা নথকাৰ ফলত এই কেৰোণবোৰৰ ফালে চকু দিয়া নাই যেন লাগে।

আজি আমাৰ দেশৰ এটা ডাঙৰ সমস্যা হৈছে ভগনীয়া সংস্থাপন। এই সমস্যা সমাধানৰ বাবে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে যিদৰে আগ্ৰহ আৰু প্ৰচেষ্টা কৰিছে সেই প্ৰচেষ্টাত কৰ্মচাৰীসকলেও যদি একনিষ্ঠ ভাৱে কৰ্তব্য পালন কৰিলেহেঁতেন তেনেহলে আমি আশা কৰা অনুপাতেই এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব পৰা হ'লহেঁতেন। কিন্তু তেওঁলোকৰ দেমাহি আৰু অদূৰদৰ্শিতাৰ বাবে আজি ইয়াৰ আশানুৰূপ কাম হোৱা নাই। আজি চৰকাৰৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে আমোলাতান্ত্ৰিক ভিত্তিত প্ৰশাসন চলোৱাৰ বাবে গণতান্ত্ৰিক দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীৰ অৰ্থ নাইকিয়া হৈ যাব। এইটো বৰ দুৰ্ভাগ্যৰ ফল আৰু এই দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী আমি আঁতৰাবই লাগিব নহলে আমি উন্নতিৰ পথত আগবাঢ়িব নোৱাৰিম।

আমাৰ দেশত আজি মাটি সমস্যাটো এটা বৰ ডাঙৰ আৰু জটিল সমস্যা হৈ পৰিছে। ইয়াৰ আমূল পৰিবৰ্তনৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে আধুনিক পৰিকল্পনাৰে যি আইন প্ৰণয়ন কৰিছে সেই আইন জিলাবোৰৰ স্থানীয় কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে যিদৰে প্ৰয়োগ কৰিছে তাৰপৰা দেশত সংঘৰ্ষ হোৱাৰহে আশঙ্কা। আমি তাৰ প্ৰতিকাৰ কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰা উচিত। আজি চৰকাৰে এফালে জমিদাৰী উচ্ছেদ কৰিছে আৰু আনফালে শাসনতান্ত্ৰিক বেমেজালিৰদ্বাৰা জমিদাৰী সৃষ্টি কৰিছে। গতিকে মোৰ দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস যে শ্ৰী ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই ডাঙি ধৰা প্ৰস্তাৱটো সময়োপযোগী হৈছে। তেখেতৰ প্ৰস্তাৱত যি দুই তিনটা ভাগৰ কথা কোৱা হৈছে তাৰ প্ৰত্যেকটোকে পৰীক্ষা কৰি চাব লাগে। আমাৰ শাসনতন্ত্ৰৰ বাবে যিবোৰ কৰ্মচাৰী নিয়োগ কৰা হয়, তেওঁলোকক বাছিবৰ সময়ত বিজ্ঞাপনত বহুতো চৰ্ত দিয়া হয় আৰু সেই হিচাপে বাছনিও কৰা হয়। কিন্তু শাসন কাৰ্য্যত হাত দিয়াৰ লগে লগেই তেওঁলোকৰ দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী পৰিবৰ্তন হৈ যায়। আমাৰ দেশৰ সৰ্বভাৰতীয় শাসক শ্ৰেণীৰ মাজত ভালেখিনি সূক্ষ্ম কৰ্মচাৰী আছে। কিন্তু অসমত তেনে কৰ্মচাৰীও অকামিলা হোৱাহে দেখা গৈছে।

দ্বিতীয় কথা হৈছে বিকেন্দ্ৰীকৰণ। আমাৰ মুখ জনসাধাৰণে এতিয়াও অনুভৱ কৰিবপৰা নাই যে, আমাৰ দেশ স্বাধীন হৈ কি পৰিবৰ্তন হ'ল। এই কথা আমাৰ জনসাধাৰণে উপলব্ধি কৰিব পৰা নাই। আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত অশিক্ষিত মানুহৰ সংখ্যা সৰহ হ'লেও আমাৰ মানুহৰ এটা গুণ আছে, সেইটো হৈছে তেওঁলোকৰ সাধাৰণ অনুভূতি

Common sense) বব বেচি। আমাৰ মানুহৰ চিন্তাধাৰা উন্নত। তথাপি তেওঁ লোকে স্বাধীনতাৰ সোৱাদ অনুভৱ কৰিব পৰা নাই। তাৰ প্ৰধান কাৰণ হ'ল আমাৰ শাসন যন্ত্ৰৰ শিথিলতা।

কেপ্তেইন চাংমাই কৈছিল, যে, তেখেতৰ অঞ্চলৰ পাহাৰীয়া ভাই সকলে নিজক স্বাধীন বুলি আজিও ভাবিব পৰা নাই। আজি চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে জনসাধাৰণৰ প্ৰভু বুলিয়েই ভাবে। ইয়াৰ আগবৰ্ত্তন উপায়ুক্তৰ দিনত তেওঁৰ চা-চলন আৰু কাৰ্য্যকলাপে পাহাৰীয়া ভাইসকলৰ মনত চৰকাৰৰ ওপৰত এটা তিভ্ৰতা আনিছিল কিন্তু বৰ্ত্তমানজন উপায়ুক্তৰ কাৰ্য্যকলাপে পুনৰ তেওঁলোকৰ মাজত চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰতি এটা সন্তুষ্টিৰ ভাৱ ফিৰাই অনাটো পৰিলক্ষিত হয়। এয়ে প্ৰমাণ কৰে যে গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট নীতি local officer জনৰ জৰিয়তেই reflect কৰে আৰু জনসাধাৰণেও সেইদৰেই উপলব্ধি কৰে। গতিকে আমাৰ বৰ্ত্তমান শাসন যন্ত্ৰটোৰ আমোল পৰিবৰ্ত্তন কৰি ইয়াক আমি আমাৰ নীতি আৰু আদৰ্শৰ লগত খাপ খুৱাই ঠাচ দিব নোৱাৰো, তেন্তে আমি ইয়াত যিমানহে বজ্জতা নিদিওঁ, দেশক কেতিয়াও গণতান্ত্ৰিক উপায়ে আগবঢ়াই নিব নোৱাৰো আৰু দেশৰ দুৰ্নীতিও ধ্বংস নহয়। দুৰ্নীতি সম্বন্ধে বেচি নোকোৱাই ভাল। কাৰণ "The less said is the better for this" অকল যুচ খোৱাকে দুৰ্নীতি বুলি মই নাভাবো, মিছাকথা বা প্ৰবঞ্চনাৰে নিজৰ বা দলীয় স্বাৰ্থ সিদ্ধি কৰা বা কৰিবলৈ প্ৰচেষ্টা কৰাও এটা দুৰ্নীতি, স্বজন প্ৰিয়তাও এটা দুৰ্নীতি। বহু সময়ত দেখা যায়, লোকক দোষ দিবলৈ যাওঁতে নিজেই ঠগ খাই যায়। গতিকে দুৰ্নীতি সম্বন্ধে বজ্জতা দিয়াৰ আগতে নিজকে বিশ্লেষণ কৰি চাব লাগে।

আজি আমি যি কমিটি গঠন কৰাৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছোঁ, তাৰ সদস্য সকল যদি নিজে এইবোৰৰ পৰা মুক্ত নহয় তেন্তে এই কমিটিয়েও কেতিয়াও জনসাধাৰণৰ মনত এটা Impetus আনি দিব নোৱাৰে আৰু আমাৰো উদ্দেশ্য সফল হোৱাৰ সম্ভৱনা কমি যাৰ গতিকে সেই লোকসকল man of character হ'ব লাগে। আমাৰ কোনো সম্পদেই গাইণ্ডটীয়া নহয় সকলো meant for the public আমি সেই দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীৰে কাম কৰিব লাগিব। সিদিনা Rev. Roy এ কৈছিল যে, "অসমৰ দাঁতিকাষৰীয়া পৰ্ব্বতীয়া ভাই-সকলৰ কাৰণে স্বাধীনতা নহয়"। ভৈয়ামৰো এটা শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহে কয় যে, "ইংৰাজী জনা মানুহৰ কাৰণেহে দেশ স্বাধীন হ'ল"। দেশত জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত এই ভাৱ পৰিলক্ষিত হোৱাতো অকল দুখৰ কথাই নহয়, ই দেশৰ প্ৰগতিৰ বিৰাট পৰিপন্থী।

আমাৰ আদৰ্শ আৰু নীতিলৈ লক্ষ্য ৰাখি আমাৰ কাৰ্য্য আৰু শাসনযন্ত্ৰৰ যোগেদি আমি গণতান্ত্ৰিক ভেটিত প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত হোৱা স্বাধীনতাৰ প্ৰেৰণা জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত জগাই তুলিব লাগিব আৰু তাকে কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে আমাৰ দেশ গঠনৰ উন্নয়নমূলক পৰিকল্পনাবিলাক কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰা দুৰূহ হৈ পৰিব। দেশৰ নানা উন্নয়নমূলক বিভাগ, যেনে, কুটীৰশিল্প, কো-অপাৰেটিভ, কৃষি আদিৰ জৰিয়তে কাম কৰিবলৈ ওলাইছে। কিন্তু এই বিভাগ টান হ'ব আৰু সকলোবোৰ গঠনমূলক কামত কুঠাৰঘাত পৰিব। গতিকে যিটো কমিটি গঠন কৰাৰ কথা কৈছে, তাৰ সদস্যসকল নৈতিক আৰু দুৰ্নীতিশূন্য আৰু ৰাইজৰ আস্থা-ভাজন হ'ব লাগিব। তেখেত সকলক বাছোঁতে যাতে এই কথালৈ বিশেষ লক্ষ্য ৰখা হয়।

ইয়াকে উল্লেখ কৰি মই শ্ৰীভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াৰ প্ৰস্তাৱৰ বিষয়ে কওঁ যে, তেখেতে যি প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে তাত আমি একমত; সকলোৱে এই প্ৰস্তাৱ সমৰ্থন কৰা উচিত বুলি মই ভাবোঁ।

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUAH (Katonigaon) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by our hon. friend, Shri Bhattacharyya. In supporting the same I beg to submit a few words regarding the present system of administration. I feel that a Committee consisting of experts and public men is highly essential to examine the present administrative machinery of the Government to suggest comprehensive measures for reorganising the structure, the rules of procedure, etc. as stated in the Resolution. Sir, we very often speak about the establishment of Gandhiji's Ram Rajya, Socialistic pattern of society, welfare State, decentralised democracy as democracy is the best type of Government, as it is the Government of the people by the people and for the people as Abraham Lincoln Says. But to speak the truth, Sir, there are many irregularities and huge wastage of public money and materials in our Government for want of proper supervision and for the lack of sincerity on the part of some of our officers. In this connection, Sir, quite a good number of examples in this regard can be quoted from the audit reports of various years. I have an opportunity of coming across such irregularities and wastage of public money as I happened to be a Member of the Public Accounts Committee. In the circumstances, Sir, if such waste of public money is allowed to go on like this at full speed and if these irregularities, etc., cannot be checked, I am afraid, the establishment of Ram Rajya, the Socialistic pattern of society and decentralised democracy will remain in our dream land for ever.

So, Sir, I beg to request the hon. Members of the House to support this important and essential Resolution in order to make our administration more democratic and responsive to popular aspirations and as such to eradicate corruption and stop wastage of public money, to decentralise the administration, to increase the scope and effectiveness, to bring about popular control at all levels in order to achieve greater efficiency and promptness and to promote popular enthusiasms and conscious participation in our nation building activities.

With these few words, Sir, I beg to appeal to the hon. Members of this House to support the Resolution. And I think if a Committee to remodel, reform, reconnect the organs of the Government and remove the irregularities of our governmental machinery is formed and functions its duty properly, surely our nation building schemes and plans will be easily and smoothly materialised and then only, the

misunderstanding between the public and the Government will be removed to a great extent, and the people will feel that they are surely living in an independent country.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by our hon. friend, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ বিৰোধীদলৰ মাননীয় সদস্য ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে, সেই প্ৰস্তাৱ সম্বন্ধে এটা ভাবিবলগা কথা আছে। এটা কথা আছে যে বিৰোধী দলে যেতিয়া কোনো প্ৰস্তাৱ আনে, যোৱা বাজেট অধিবেশনতো দেখিছে যে আমাৰ চৰকাৰ দলে তাক সমৰ্থন নকৰে।

(Voice:—ভাল হলে সমৰ্থন কৰে।) কিন্তু এইবাৰ দেখিছোঁ। এই প্ৰস্তাৱটো বহুতে সমৰ্থন কৰিছে। ময়ো আন্তৰিকতাৰে সৈতে ইয়াক সমৰ্থন কৰিছোঁ।

মই দুখেৰে সৈতে কবলগীয়া হৈছোঁ যে আজি ১০ বছৰেও আমাৰ শাসন যন্ত্ৰটো পৰিপাটী হৈ নুঠিল। গতিকে এনে এটা প্ৰস্তাৱ লোৱা নিতান্ত দৰ্কাৰ। গতিকে মই সুখী হৈছোঁ আৰু তাত সমৰ্থন জনাইছোঁ। স্বাধীনতা পোৱাৰ দহ বছৰৰ পিচত এতিয়া আৰু কেচুৱা চৰকাৰ বুলি থাকিলে গা নুজুৰায়। গতিকে এনেকৈ চলিলে আৰু ১০ বছৰ পিচতো আমাৰ কোনো উন্নতি নহব বুলি মোৰ বিশ্বাস।

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Thursday, the 7th November, 1957.

SHILLONG:
The 18th July, 1958.

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

R. N. Barua

AGENTS IN INDIA

1. Messrs. Thacker Spink & Co., Calcutta.
2. Messrs. W. Newman & Co., Calcutta.
3. Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Calcutta.
4. Messrs. R. Cambray & Co., 6 and 8/2, Hastings Street, Calcutta.
5. Messrs. D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co., 103, Meadow Street, Fort, Post Box No.187, Bombay.
6. The Indian School Supply Depot, 309, Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta.
7. The City Book Company, Post Box No.283, Madras.
8. The Director, The Book Company, Limited, Book Sellers and Stationers, 4/4A, College Square, Calcutta.
9. The Manager, The Imperial Publishing Co., 99, Ry. Road, Lahore.
10. Messrs. Chapala Book Stall, Shillong.
11. Messrs. Sirbhum Publishing Co., Calcutta.
12. The Proprietor, 'Graduates Union,' Gauhati.
13. Mr. Banwarilal Jain (Book Seller), 1719/2002, Mati Katra, Agra (India).
14. Messrs. Law Book Society, 65/3, Harrison Road, Calcutta.
15. The Director, Benares Corporation, University Road, P.O. Lanka.
16. Messrs. Law Book Society, 4A, Wellington Square, Calcutta.
17. Messrs. Bodh Raj Marwah, Booksellers, Shop No.63, Pusa Colony Market, Delhi-Karol Bagh, New Delhi.
18. The Oxford Book and Stationery Co., Scindia House, New Delhi/17, Park Street, Calcutta.
19. Messrs Mokshaga Pustakalaya, Publishers and Book Sellers, Gauhati.
20. Messrs Popular Book Depot (Regd.), Book-sellers, Publishers, etc., Lamington Road, Bombay-7.
21. Messrs B.H.U. Press Book Depot. Book-sellers. Publishers, etc., Banaras-5 (India).
22. The Manager, The Modern Book-Depot, G. S. Road, Shillong.
23. The Manager, The Modern Book-Depot, Gauhati.
24. The Manager, The Modern Book-Depot, Calcutta.
25. The Manager, The Modern Book-Depot, Agra Cantonment.
26. Proprietor, B.S. Jain and Co., 71, Abupura, Muzaffarnagar (U. P.), India.
27. Firma, K. L. Mukhopadhyay, 6/1A Bachham Akrur Lnae, Calcutta-12, India.