

Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

SECOND SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE SECOND
GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE
SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION OF
INDIA

NOVEMBER SESSION

VOLUME II

No.28

The 11th November, 1957



सत्यमेव जयते

1959

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS
SHILLONG

Price 10 annas,

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 Monday, the 11th November, 1957.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Training of Agricultural Officers in U. S. A. and U. K. under Colombo Plan

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)
asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Government of India lately requested the State Government to recommend a few Agricultural Officers to send for training in U. S. A. and U. K. under Colombo Plan for 1957-58 ?

(b) If so, who were the Officers whose names were recommended by the Director of Agriculture to the Government ?

(c) Whether the State Government have sent the list of Officers to the Government of India ?

(d) If not, why not ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) replied :

1. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Director of Agriculture, Assam, recommended the following Officers under Colombo Plan, Point Four Programme, United Nations Technical Assistance Administration (U. N. T. A.) Programme, 1958.

(a) Under Colombo Plan

Names	Subject of Training
1. Shri M. N. Majumdar, Professor of Chemistry, Assam Agricultural College, Jorhat.	Agricultural Chemistry.
2. Shri A. K. Sarma, Lecturer of Botany, Assam Agricultural, College, Jorhat	Plant Breeding.
3. Shri Debendra Pal Das, Fruit Technological Officer.	Fruit Technology.
4. Shri S.C. Bhattacharyya, Agricultural Marketing Officer.	Agricultural Marketing.

(c)—No.

(d)—As the proposal was received late, it could not be finalised and forwarded to Education Department for onward transmission to Government of India.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Absorption of Supply Department personnel

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)

asked:

*1. Will the Minister-in-charge of Appointment Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the question of absorption of Supply Department personnel is being considered by the Government ?
- (b) If so, on what basis ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that those of the Supply Department personnel who though educationally under-qualified, but who rendered satisfactory services for a considerable period, are not likely to be absorbed in any permanent Department with the same status and pay ?
- (d) If so, whether the Government servants serving in other permanent departments including the Secretariat are all educationally qualified ?
- (e) If the answer to (d) above is in the negative, what are the reasons for special emphasis on educational qualification in the case of Supply Department personnel ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): to reply.

1. (a)—The question of absorption of Supply Department personnel was taken up by the Government long ago. A resolution embodying the policy to be followed in the matter of retrenched personnel was published as early as November 1952 and that Resolution is still being followed.

(b)—The hon. Member may please refer to Government Resolution No.AAA.61/52/72, dated the 24th November 1952 in this connection.

(c)—The procedure for absorption has been laid down in Clause 4 of the 1952 Resolution. It has been made clear in Clause 1 of the Resolution that there shall be no relaxation with regard to the minimum qualification required for different posts and as such retrenched personnel are eligible for absorption in posts for which they are educationally qualified.

(d)—Most of the Government servants serving in giving in other permanents including the Secretariat are educationally qualified in few cases of educationally under qualified persons have on course been brought to the notice of Government and their cases are under consideration. Prior to 1950 relaxation of educational qualification was occasionally resorted to, but this has been discontinued since 1950.

(e)—The same policy of no relaxation in the matter of educational qualification has been followed since 1950.

Relaxation in Educational Qualification to Political Sufferers

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati) asked:

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

(a) Whether Government has enunciated the principle to grant at least the same degree of relaxation in educational qualification to political sufferers as granted to the War Service personnel ?

(b) Whether Government propose to be liberal in the matter of relaxing educational qualification at the time of absorption in the case of those political sufferers who though educationally under-qualified have been efficiently discharging their duties for years together ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied.

2. (a)—Certain concessions were granted as regards educational qualification in respect of War Service personnel since 1946, but these were discontinued from May 1950 and as such the question of granting any relaxation in educational qualification to political sufferers does not arise.

(b)—According to the existing policy of Government in the matter of educational for the purpose of appointment to different posts, it does not seem desirable to relax the minimum educational qualification in order to ensure efficiency in services.

Waiver of educational qualification in case of absorption of Supply and Textile Department personnel

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)
asked :

*3. Will the Minister-in-charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Government of Assam has received Circular No.F4/12/54-RPS., dated the 16th March 1955 of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India on the subject of waiver of educational qualification in case of absorption of Supply and Textile Department personnel ?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam has made a departure from the principle laid down in that circular ?

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, what are the reasons thereof ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied.

3. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—In their letter the Government of India stated that persons retrenched from Rationing and Civil Supplies Departments had no special experience of work in Central Government offices and it would not be possible to make any relaxation of educational qualifications in their case. The Government of India thought that these employees might be familiar with the system of working in State Governments and that State Governments might find it possible to exempt such persons from the requirement of educational qualification and suggested that the matter might be considered by the State Governments. The State Government considered the question of relaxation in the matter of educational qualification, but decided as early as November 1952 that any relaxation in the matter of qualification has the inherent risk of lowering the standard of efficiency in public service and that these can never be conceded without grave detriment to the interest of public administration and embodied this decision in Government Resolution No.AAP. 61/52/72, dated the 24th November 1952 and as such there is no question of any deviation from the principle laid down by the Government of India as the Government of India made certain suggestions only to the State Government.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the Table)

Regarding Recommendations of the Pay Committee

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-west) asked :

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

(a) Whether the recommendations of the Pay Committee have been made effective ?

(b) If so, whether these recommendations have been made applicable to temporary departments such as Supply, Relief and Rehabilitation, etc. ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister-in charge of Finance) replied :

6. (a)—Yes, generally with minor modifications.

(b)—Yes. Those who are holding common posts such as Office Assistants, Grade IV, Drivers, etc., with corresponding pre-revision scales have already got the benefit of the revised standard scales. Revised scales for the Accounts Staff of the Supply, C. P. and R. R. Department have also been sanctioned. As regards other posts the matter will need further scrutiny.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA : As regards the answer to Question No.6—I want to know how long it will take to give effect to the other posts.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : In this matter, Sir, there are three categories, Supply Department, Relief and Rehabilitation Department and the Community Project Department. The Chief Minister has just stated that the personnel of the Supply Department who have been discharged are being absorbed and taken in other departments. The Relief and Rehabilitation Department and the Community Projects Department both these Departments have schemes of their own ; so it will take sometime, say, 9 months to one year, to scrutinise all these things and find out who are the residuary officers who are not yet absorbed in other services.

Srimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon):
May I know from Government whether the recommendation of the Pay Committee has been extended to the Government Aided Colleges of Assam ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):
I am requesting the Education Minister to reply.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education):
So far as the aided institutions are concerned, the Pay Committee was asked to give at the time of its constitution some model scales for those institutions. In cases where prescribed conditions have been fulfilled those model scales have been implemented.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is not the implementation of the model scale a responsibility of the Government ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Yes.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Is the Pay Committee's recommendation implemented in the case of the Aided Middle English School teachers ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: Yes, Sir, implementation has been made in cases of those Middle English Schools which are receiving full grants and which have fulfilled prescribed conditions and not in all cases.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: Is it implemented in the case of the employees of the mechanical department of the Public Works Department—Factories ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Those who are purely on temporary basis are receiving consideration as to whether employees serving continuously and meritoriously for five years and over could not be absorbed into per manency. As regards the point raised by my Friend, my information is that most of the employees are on work-charged basis and they are purely on temporary basis.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):
May I know whether the same facilities were extended to the High English Madrassas and Middle English Madrassas ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education): So far as the Madrassas are concerned, they are not getting the same scale of dearness allowance and we are examining the matter to give the same scale of dearness allowance.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): May I know when effect will be given as it has been given in the papers but not in actual practice ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): That insinuation is not acceptable, Sir.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): In reply to 6(a) it has been stated by the Hon'ble Finance Minister "Yes, generally with minor modifications". I would like to know from him what are those minor modifications ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : That is a long story. I think my Friend will find all these in the Government Resolution and he can study it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think, it can be placed on the Table of the House for the benefit of the hon. Members.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Yes, Sir. It is a publication of 83 pages.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): May I know why three categories of Pay are fixed for the Agricultural Inspectors against the recommendation of the Pay Committee ? What are the reasons ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I submit for the consideration of the Chair whether or not these questions are outside the ambit of the question, for which notice was given.

Mr. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether the recommendation of the Pay Committee in respect of Agricultural Inspectors has been implemented because the Pay Committee has not given recommendation for three categories of pay.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: I have nothing to add, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: He wanted to know the reasons,

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): All the informations that are at my disposal, I have given.

Minimum Wage Award to Journalists

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabor) asked:

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware of a Minimum Wage Award by the Government of India as recommended by the Press Minimum Wage Advisory Committee which was constituted by the Government of India for the journalists of the country?
- (b) If so, what measure the Government are taking to enforce the award in Assam?
- (c) Whether the award will be enforced in Assam without alteration and delay?
- (d) Whether the award will be implemented with retrospective effect from the date of publication of the award in the Government of India Gazette?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE, CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge of Labour) replied:

7. (a)—Yes.

(b), (c) & (d)—Two important newspapers in the State, viz., The Assam Tribune and The Naton Asamiya have already implemented the Wage Board's decision in their establishments.

Information on other newspapers establishments is being collected.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Is there any Notification issued by the Government of Assam enforcing the Central Minimum Wage Award for the Press Workers of Assam?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Labour): I want notice of this question.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : What action Assam Government is taking to implement this Award in other presses ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : Step taken by Government is consideration of the whole matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member wants to discuss in details, he can meet the Hon'ble Minister.

Speaker's ruling on two adjournment motions regarding lathi charge by Police on a procession of boatmen at Dhubri

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received notice of two adjournment motions moved by Shri Khagendra Nath Barbarua and Shri Jahanuddin Ahmed regarding a lathi charge by Police on a procession of boatmen at Dhubri on the 6th November, 1957 injuring several and resulting in arrest of 17 persons. The criteria of admissibility of an adjournment motion are two, *viz.*, whether the matter to be discussed is definite and whether it is of urgent public importance. So far as the definiteness of the matter is concerned, it is beyond reasonable doubt that it is a definite matter, *viz.*, the lathi charge by Police on a procession of boatmen. So far as the second criterion is concerned, that is to say, whether it is of urgent public importance, the basic test for a matter to be of urgent public importance for the purpose of discussion in this Assembly is that it must have public importance for the State as a whole and not for a particular locality only. In this case the procession of boatmen is entirely a matter of local importance for the place where it occurred and has no significance or importance for the State as a whole, either politically or administratively. Moreover, the consequence of this incident is not of such a grave nature as to make it eligible for discussion on an adjournment motion in this House. I, therefore, hold that these two motions are inadmissible under the Rules of Procedure of our Assembly.

Resolution re: the Oil Refinery Satyagraha Movement

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move : "This Assembly do now take into consideration the situation created by the Oil Refinery Satyagraha Movement in the State."

Sir, before I deal with the subject, I beg to inform the House that the Action Committee that met yesterday at Gauhati have taken into consideration the gesture of the Government in releasing the Satyagrahis all over the State and in withdrawing the pending cases in connection with the Oil Refinery Movement. The Action Committee also took into consideration the decision of the Naharkatiya conference where we decided to terminate this phase of the movement from the 15th and having taken into consideration these facts we have decided to terminate the movement from yesterday. This must not mean and this does not mean that the movement has been suspended. The particular phase of the movement has its limited purposes, and after this purpose has been achieved, we are thinking of a bigger movement, and as soon as the preparation is made we may have to launch a bigger movement. Sir, we have been maligned for starting this movement and also there has been a lot of allegations against the leaders of this movement in the way the movement has been conducted. Further, we do not take this occasion to reply to these charges, but, Sir, I am convinced that it was necessary to have this movement, so as to focus the attention of the whole country to the demand of the people of this State. It was necessary to have this movement to demonstrate that we do not mince matters or words—that we mean business and therefore.....

***M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture):** On a point of information, Sir, does that include the leader of the refinery movement ?

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** It includes Mr. Moinul Haque Chaudhury, also, because I am sure Mr. Moinul Haque Chaudhury also wants it. Sir, I wanted to be very considerate in expressing my feelings and I thought that in giving expression to my feelings nobody ruffled my sentiments by ravenous expressions. When I include Mr. Chaudhury I mean that because Satyagraha is one thing and the

movement is another thing. The particular phase of the movement is one thing and the movement is another thing. I can boldly say that everyone in this House wants the refinery here. Sir, if I am correct, it was the desire of the party in power as expressed in the resolution passed on the 5th August, I suppose, that if the demand of the people is not considered properly, even the party in power will launch a movement ; what type of movement that will be is another thing. Therefore, Sir, so far as the need of the movement is concerned, there may be difference in opinion and I do not mind this difference, because there is bound to be difference, but to malign one on this score is one thing and to support the movement is another thing and to-day when I find that in different parts of Assam more than 1,000 people courted imprisonment in vindication of this demand that is not an insignificant thing. Sir, we have passed through various movements in this State, including the ones in 1929 and 1941.....

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :
We were not independent at that time.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** Yes, so even during those movements, I think except in 1942 movement, so many people did not court imprisonment, and therefore that so many people including ladies courted imprisonment in such a number shows the intensity of the feeling of the people on this demand. Sir, as I have stated, I do not want to convert this discussion into a discussion about the justification of the movement or otherwise. The Motion, if the hon. Members try to see, is a different one altogether,—the situation created by the refinery movement, and therefore we have to limit ourselves to certain things only. This august House passed two resolutions unanimously regarding the demand for the oil refinery and we were all one in our demand. We did not want to make any party problem and even to-day I can say we do not want to make any party problem. There are so many issues in the country. On ideological plane a party can fight another party. But this is not the case here. Everyone, I am sure, wants to join together so that the imbalance in our economy may be removed. (Interruptions). Well, as I have stated, I did not want to be interrupted. If they want to do so, I am ready for that. Sir, we wanted this to be an all-people's demand, and therefore every time we have been trying to do so,

but when the delegation was sent to Delhi that matter was done in such a manner as if it was the concern of the party in power alone. We expected that we would also be taken into confidence, if not taken in the delegation and, Sir, it came to light afterwards that it was also the desire of the Prime Minister that I should go and discuss the matter with him along with the delegation. Unfortunately, that information never came to me.....

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : In this respect, Sir, I want to make the position clear. Before I left for Delhi leading the delegation I did not get the letter of the Prime Minister. I received it only on my return from Delhi.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** All I can say is that I accept the bonafides of the statement of the Leader of the House. It is true, Sir, that the day on which he left for Delhi, just an hour before, he called me to his place at Gauhati and told me that I should also go and that he would try to fix an interview for me with the Prime Minister. But, Sir, it was not possible, on that informal basis, for me holding a position in the Action Committee, to go. Therefore I did not go. Afterwards the President of the Provincial Congress Committee published a letter purported to have been written by the Prime Minister wherein it was stated that the Leader of the Opposition was invited to New Delhi, but he did not go, and in that letter it was said that this fact should be made known to the people of Assam. Immediately I wrote to the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister sent a reply wherein he stated that he did write to the Chief Minister that I should also go to New Delhi. However, I take the words of the Leader of the House that he received that letter from the Prime Minister after his arrival back from New Delhi, after the delegation. That is one thing. The second thing is that it is also true that on 26th of July the Leader of the House contacted me on 'phone and told me about what transpired between him and the Prime Minister. This contact on 'phone was from New Delhi when I was at Gauhati. But when he arrived back at Gauhati I expected that the whole matter would be discussed with me, because we wanted to know in details what actually transpired during the delegation because all the press statements made in this connection were somewhat cryptical as I considered them. So, Sir, that advantage was not given to us. In the meantime on the 29th of July there was a

strike and Hartal, which was unprecedented in the annals of strikes and hartals, and I congratulate the Friends sitting opposite for the active participation in that strike and Hartal. On the 28th of August, 1956, also there was a strike and through such strikes was brought into lime light the demand of the people of Assam as never before. When we wrote all these things there were certain things which were not clear to us. Therefore, Sir, I am placing also on the table of the House a letter written by me to the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister's reply thereto. I am not divulging everything in the letter written by me to the Prime Minister. I am quoting that portion of the letter wherein I wanted clarification on certain points.....

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, is he entitled to or has he the permission to disclose the Prime Minister's letter which may be a private letter between him and and the Prime Minister ?

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as that matter is concerned, it is not within my jurisdiction. But if anybody quotes any letter whether it is private or public it must be placed on the table of the House for the benefit of all the Members. It is not for me to decide whether that letter is private or public but it is for the hon. Member who wants to quote it. He may not place on the table of the House the whole contents of the letter, but a part of it only.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Sir, I can assure the Leader of the House that I am not going to divulge the whole thing. I am going to place on the table of the House the contents of the letter on certain points I raised and while going to do so I think it will not be open for the Press for publication.

Mr. SPEAKER: If he goes to place it on the table of the House that also means that he goes to divulge it.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** If the matter is placed on the table of the House, it is not open for the Press, I suppose.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI : Even then that becomes a public property.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Press is entitled to publish any statement made on the floor of the House. But if any document is placed on the table of the House for the benefit of the Members and whether any Member can get it published is another matter and on that I will give a ruling, may be, tomorrow.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): I make a distinction between placing a thing on the table of the House and releasing that thing to the press.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, has the hon. Member got the permission to make it public or place it on the table of the House ?

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** If it is so much objected to, I will not place it even on the table of the House (*A voice:* It is a question of principle).

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a matter between the hon. Member and the Prime Minister and whether he can quote it or place it on the table of the House, that is not my jurisdiction to say. If the hon. Member feels justified in doing so, he may do so and in that case I shall insist that the entire contents of the letter should be placed on the table of the House.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI : Sir, before he goes to disclose the contents of the letter, I want to know, whether he has got the permission of the person who wrote the letter. That is the information I want, because it is an important matter.

***Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj North):** Sir, it is the responsibility of the Leader of the Opposition whether he should take any permission from the person who wrote the letter, if the former intends to disclose it.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Sir, I am quite conscious of my responsibility. But what has pained me is that somebody is imputing motive on it. Sir, I know what I am going to do and even without placing the letter on the table of the House the points that create doubts in my mind can be spoken here. There were certain points which created doubts in our minds.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House may be interested in procedure to be followed regarding personal letters. Even before the House of Commons this question arose on more than one occasion, but ultimately it was thought that in respect of personal letters it was doubtful whether anything but good taste could restrain a Member.

(Voices:—That is the point.)

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** I have not crossed the limits of good taste.

(A voice:—Some people question it.)

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** People who have lost good taste may question it. Sir, my point is this: I raised certain points of public importance in that letter and, therefore, those doubts which I expressed to the Prime Minister can also be expressed here, because those are not matters which relate to me personally.

***Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamapur):** The hon. Leader of the Opposition has already said that he is in possession of the letter and wanted to disclose it. He has said that he can place the letter on the table of the House. As this Assembly is more or less a public body whatever is spoken in this Assembly will get publicity and so we want to know the details as regards the matter referred to in the letter.

***Mr. SPEAKER:** So far as I am concerned, I cannot compel any Member to say, what he does not want to say or to quote what he does not want to quote. But if the hon. Member quotes from any letter, in all fairness it should be placed on the table of the House.

So far as the point raised by the Hon'ble Leader of the House is concerned, whether the hon. Member has got the permission of the Prime Minister to do so, I can only hold that any restraint that may be imposed will be of good taste and it is for the Leader of the Opposition to decide.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education): On a point of order, Sir. The Motion of my Friend is only of a very limited purpose. It reads like this: "This Assembly

do now take into consideration the situation created by the Oil Refinery Satyagraha Movement in the State." Whether there was any necessity for the Satyagraha Movement, whether he had any doubts about the points raised in the Prime Minister's letter, all these things are not, strictly speaking, relevant, because it is the subsequent situation that was created by the Satyagraha Movement, that is to be discussed by this Motion.

***Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):** He can explain what is this Refinery Satyagraha movement. This is quite relevant.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** I agree entirely with the Minister of Education that this Motion is of a very limited character, but it will be within the ambit of this Motion if I explain why this movement was started, if I say that those doubts were there and, therefore, the movement was started and even to-day those doubts have not been dispelled.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** May I crave your indulgence for two minutes, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, even longer if the time is usefully utilised. (*laughter*).

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: My submission is that the hon. Leader of the Opposition is referring to a letter which is said to have come from the Prime Minister of India...

Mr. SPEAKER: Please wait. Let me dispose of the point of order raised by Mr. Bora.

So far as the point of order raised by Mr. Bora is concerned, it is true that this Motion, under the terms of the rules governing Motions, has to be on a definite issue and, therefore, this Motion should confine itself only to the situation created by the Oil Refinery Satyagraha Movement in the State, that is, the present situation. But to make a proper appraisal and better appreciation of the situation it may be necessary to give a background, but only to the extent that it helps us to understand the present situation created by the Satyagraha movement. A detailed discussion of the background, I am afraid, will be not only out of order, but also hardly in consonance with the commonsense view without which this Assembly cannot function.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** But that background has to be given. I am aware of the limitations imposed by the motion itself.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Sarmah wanted to say something.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): What I was going to say, Sir, is this: when the letter is said to have been received from the Prime Minister, it is an important thing. I personally feel very proud that I belong to a democracy wherein the Prime Minister of India writes to the Leader of the Opposition here in Shillong. What I am submitting is this: that mentioning about a letter from the Prime Minister and thereafter throwing a smoke screen around it, is perhaps not in consonance with the dignity of this forum—I mean the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as the point raised by the Hon'ble Finance Minister is concerned, we have discussed it. So far as the hon. Leader of the Opposition is concerned, he was going to quote from that letter. I made it perfectly clear by the ruling I have given on more than one occasion that in all fairness it must be placed on the table of the House for verification of the Members. The Hon'ble Chief Minister raised the point whether the hon. Leader of the Opposition had got permission from the Prime Minister to do so. Now, this is a matter for the hon. Leader of the Opposition to consider. All I can say is that in this matter, as in the House of Commons, good taste more than anything else should be the restraining factor.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: That was exactly what I was in a way pointing out. Some Member stands up and says, "here is a letter from the Prime Minister" and throw insinuations and innuendoes, while we do not know anything about it. Is that in good taste ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member quoted from the letter ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Not exactly ; he has not quoted a sentence but he has put across insinuating that the letter contains something to condemn us.

Mr. SPEAKER: In this House, I cannot compel a Member to say what he does not want to say. I can only insist that if he says anything he must say it in full. It is for the hon. Member to decide whether he wants to use that letter or not. So far as the mention about the letter is concerned, there is nothing under the rules to stop him from mentioning about it. If he says, "I have received a letter from the Prime Minister" I cannot stop it, but I can restrain him from quoting that letter unless he quotes it in full.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): So that area or gap between mentioning about the letter and quoting it or not is what it is covered by the quotation mentioned by the Chair *re*: the House of commons.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education): My Friend was referring to a letter from the Prime Minister without disclosing what the Prime Minister had said. The hon. Member also said that the reading of the letter had created certain doubts in his mind. If he does not disclose how the doubts were caused by the Prime Minister's letter, how can we dispel them ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Our rules and procedure and also parliamentary practice make it very clear that I can go this far and no further. He cannot quote from the letter unless he places it on the table of the House.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): The only thing is that he cannot draw any inference from it.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not for me whether there is any inference or not and whether my hon. Friend had written a letter or not.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Sir, my submission is what I have stated on the floor of this House, the Ministers may call for its report immediately. The only thing I have said is that I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of India regarding certain points and I have received a reply. Then I also stated that I might be permitted to place the copy of the letter on the table of this House, if it is not objected to.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): No, Sir, I have not objected to that.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Sir, I thought we the young people are only impatient. I now find that people who are more than 50 years of age are also impatient.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI: As a matter of fact, I may inform the House that I have got a copy of the letter, and it is in my possession now.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Sir, the other day when I did not speak anything, the Leader of the House stated on the floor of this House that I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, and that he got a copy of the reply sent to me by the Prime Minister. Nobody objected to that, and this statement could be looked into from the report.

Mr. SPEAKER: This chapter is closed now.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** All that I wanted to tell the House is that the House should have sufficient patience to hear what I have said.

***Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):** Sir, what we want to know is that, as this is a matter of public importance, we want to know what reply Mr. Goswami received from the Prime Minister.....

Mr. SPEAKER: In this matter I cannot compel the hon. Member if he does not want to place the copy of the letter on the table of the House. We must be guided by the rules and procedure of parliamentary practices. We cannot do anything here except by the rules of procedure. If the hon. Member does not want to quote anything from the letter, I cannot compel him to do so.

(At this stage many hon. Members from the Government side wanted to speak at a time.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. This chapter is closed now.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Sir, I do not know why this matter has been taken in this manner by the hon. Members from the Government side. The hon. Members speaking on this matter should have the patience to hear what I want to speak. What I have ventured to say before this House is that I made a request to the Speaker whether with his permission if I could keep a copy of the letter on the table of the House. I do not know if keeping of the copy on the table of the House means releasing to the Press the contents of the letter. I am still in correspondence and it is a great thing for a humble and tiny man like me to be in correspondence with the greatest man of India. I do not want to disclose the contents of the Prime Minister's letter nor have I taken his permission to disclose the contents of the letter. All that I thought is, as this matter was of great importance, on which we have some doubts, there should be a correct appraisal of the whole situation and in that connection some observation of the Prime Minister would be useful. This I wanted to do without disclosing the contents of his letter, but only by giving a substance or the relevant portions. Unfortunately there has been too much mud slinging in this House and we have acquired the habit of imputing motive to any thing we speak. Sir, when the Party in power imputes motive, it becomes really very deplorable. We had doubts regarding certain points. Because at one stage it was stated that the location for the oil refinery was finally settled at Barauni, and sometime after, it was stated that Government wanted project reports both for Gauhati and Barauni, and final decision would be taken after studying the project reports.

Now when that statement made on the floor of Parliament is not withdrawn and when there has been a treatment of this kind to the matter, we have some doubts in our mind whether or not that decision still stands.

Secondly, we have been told that a project report will be prepared. So we want to have clarification whether the Location Enquiry Committee Report has been given a good-bye or that it still stands. If that is the situation then the matter assumes a different colour and we want to know whether this report would be the basis of the project report. So far as I know, the Location Enquiry Committee have given Calcutta the the first place, Barauni the second and Gauhati the third place.

and it is difficult to understand on what new facts the project report would be prepared. A very reliable Friend of mine told me that he had read the report and found that Barauni has been given the second place and Gauhati has been given the third place. Whether the project reports will be prepared independently now and on new facts and figures or whether they will be based on facts and figures available to the Location Enquiry Committee, nobody can say.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): The Project Reports will be prepared and there are facts and figures.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** The third thing, whether the oil refinery will be located at Barauni or not, we have been told by people who have seen the place that there is a big sign-board placed at a site for the oil refinery, and we have also read in the newspaper that some lands have been acquired by the Bihar Government for the purpose and lakhs of rupees have been sanctioned for constructing an embankment at Barauni, and it was also stated that the embankment was meant for the oil refinery. We have some doubt whether it amounts to a commitment for locating the oil refinery at Barauni or not. We have also our doubts that in this behalf we did not say anything about the technical or economic consideration. We made our demand in a plain and a straight forward way that we want the oil refinery in Assam. We now find that the Government have changed their position and a new stand has been taken. We passed two resolutions in this House and therein we based our demand for the refinery on the economic imbalance of the State and on the ground of effecting regional development. Once the Government agree to have the refinery only if economic and technical factors favour it, then if it is denied on these grounds, the Government will have to reconcile to this position and they will not be able to protest. Our stand has been whether it is economically feasible and whether it is technically feasible. Even then the refinery is necessary for the purpose of removing the imbalance in our State. And in doing so if the Central Government or the State Government suffer initial loss, ultimately they will gain. For having a balanced economy and regional development it is not possible to have profit all the

time. Therefore, if it is necessary to consider regional development then these things need to be put forward. Also Shri Malaviya, the Union Minister in-charge of Minerals, made a statement in September last that it is not only economic consideration but there are other considerations too. And therefore we are afraid. We have also to know whether the Prime Minister's desire to develop our State was only to see exploration of oil in this State ? It will also mean some amount of development—gas plant may be possible, fertiliser plant and other such things may be possible even if the refinery may not be given. It may mean development to a certain extent even if the refinery may not be given. Whether exploration of oil means location of the refinery within this State or only building up of these industries ? All these things were there. Therefore we are in doubt. We do not get clarification. Therefore we consider that the movement that we have started is necessary in order to keep the people alive on this issue.

Sir, without disclosing anything of the Prime Minister's letter to me—of course I have no objection that those Members who want to read it can do so, but as I have already stated that I have not taken the Prime Minister's permission to release it, I have not published it in the Press. But whether the letter is beneficial to me, whether it is favourable to the Congress, that is another matter—the people will judge it. But without his permission I do not want to release it. But I am under the impression that if I give only the substance of that letter all the Members are allowed to read it, it will not be divulging any secret in this matter. I for one would like that all Members should also go through that letter. Sir, these are the reasons for starting this movement. And as I have already stated, there was a big response so far. If you go through the reports from various parts of the State you will see that there was a big response. Sir, I am sure this movement has strengthened the hands of the Government in pushing ahead this demand of a refinery and in going forward with this demand keeping in consonance with the Resolution passed by this House to the effect that location of the refinery is necessary to remove the economic imbalance in our State.

The Leader of the House said that for this movement the sympathy of people in other parts of India will decrease. Well, I had also the privilege of going out of Assam during these days

and I have seen how this issue has been taken by those people. It might be my people are not the people of the Leader of the House but I have not come across any man taking an adverse view on this score. Today also I do not brag that because of this movement there has been a change in the attitude of the Central Government. But the fact remains that the bridge which was not contemplated even in the Second Five Year Plan, that has now been done and the Railway Zone is there now. I give all the credit to the Government for all this but at the same time they should not discredit us. Though you may not approve of this movement, I say that the whole movement is for economic development. And in this regard I can boldly say that the people of Assam to-day—as my Friend, Shri Tripathy, said that we have no industrial bias in our minds—I can say that within these few days our people have become industry-minded,—a thing which could not have been brought about even by 20 years' of propaganda. But to-day all the people even in the villages have become industry-minded. For that also I give all the credit to the Government. I do not want any credit.

Sir, I will also say that this movement has been an all-people movement. People from the hills demanded it and people from the plains demanded it—all of them Bengalis, Assamese, Nepalis, Hindustani, Punjabi, every one in towns and villages are at one in this demand. This is something spectacular. And why is this so? Not just because of the refinery, but because the people have seen something behind this refinery question. The people feel that if this refinery is located here then a new vista, a new avenue for the development of the State will be opened up. Sir, let us not bring disruption in this unity. Let the Government, let the Congress give a proper lead in this and we are ready to follow it because we have no party interest in this question. Also, Sir, in this regard two things have been clearly demonstrated. One is that the people are ready to suffer and sacrifice for this. Let it be taken note of by the Government that if a correct lead is given in this matter by the Government, the people will follow them and they will suffer and sacrifice for this issue. Secondly, I will also ask the Government to remember that because of this movement problems of the State have been focussed properly now and let us not forget that aspect. And, therefore, in moving this motion to-day, that this Satyagraha has ended, let there be no bitterness on this score, let there be a correct appraisal of the situation. Let us gauge the feeling of the people correctly

from what has been demonstrated through these agitations. Sir, we have heard the Leader of the House said that things cannot be had through agitations. But Sir, if ordinary democratic measures fail, there is also scope for expression of public opinion through extraordinary democratic methods. It is not only in our State that such things have been done, not only in our country but everywhere. Sir, when people cannot achieve their ends through formal democratic methods and democratic processes, then extraordinary popular methods have been adopted. Thereby, I do not mean violence, nor do I mean disorder. Even on popular level these things have been not only in other countries, but even in our own country, and that too, after the Independence has been won. Well, if I am wrong, throw me out, I do not mind, but this popular enthusiasm should not be watered down. This enthusiasm should be properly harnessed, properly geared up so that the interested persons may not attempt to escape the problem. Sir, with this idea in view I am moving this motion. My Friend, Shri Moinul Haque Chaudhury, has charged us with having attempted to escape from this movement. Sir, when Shri Moinul Haque Chaudhury was not in the forefront in many a battle of our country, we were, and we know how to remain in jails, how to court imprisonment and how to suffer for it.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Sir, it was never my intention to cast any personal reflection.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** So, let it not be said that we did not join the Satyagraha only in the fear of being arrested and imprisoned. Well, it is the leaders who conduct the movement and if they court imprisonment at the beginning, the movement will automatically fall flat. That was not sought to be done. And now if we propose not to start Satyagraha any more enabling all the leaders to join in it, it is because we feel that at this juncture, when the Satyagraha has been suspended from the 15th of November and all the Satyagrahis have been released, situation does not warrant now to court arrest and imprisonment. Our ideal is high, our intention is noble, and so let there be no imputation, no evil motive attached.....

***Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY** [Moran (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, is it not the misapplication of the Satyagraha when the real Satyagrahis are rotting in jails, their leaders are going on merrily outside ?

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** (Rampur): I am not here to take a lesson on Satyagraha from my hon. Friend. If my Friend wants to have a discourse on 'Satyagraha', we can have a discourse on that at some other time but not here and now.

***Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY**: Is Satyagraha a means to put innocent and unsophisticated people into jail ?

***Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUA** (Amguri): Mahatma Gandhi also did the same thing.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: When some people are bent upon misinterpreting things and creating bitterness in the debate, it is no use trying to bring them round. Sir, I have no intention to be ruffled up by these interruptions but I would only say that a situation has developed in our country, and that situation has compelled us all to take note of it, and I hope, the party in power will also take note of it and move accordingly.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved : "This Assembly do now take into consideration the situation created by the Oil Refinery Satyagraha Movement in the State."

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, every one in our State wants the Refinery for processing crude oil extracted from the Naharkatiya oil fields to be located within the borders of this State. This House also accepted a resolution unanimously wherein the desire of this House and also of the people was expressed to have the Refinery in Assam with a view to remove the economic imbalance of the State. I am sure our Government also have been trying very seriously to have the Refinery located in the State. The question, therefore, arises, when everybody in the State wants the Refinery to be in Assam, and when the Government is also trying to have it, and I believe they are very serious about it, what is this movement for ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Education Minister): On a point of order, Sir, the hon. Member is only trying to justify the Satyagraha movement. That will only mean repetition of the same argument.

Mr. SPEAKER : That is not the point. The hon. Member is only trying to give the background.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): This Government have come to an understanding with the Union Government on the issue of the location of the Oil Refinery according to which, it has been advocated, the whole issue has been declared to have been re-opened tentatively and according to the terms of that declaration, two project reports will be prepared, one for the refinery at Barauni and the other for one at Gauhati, and as the oil is extracted in Assam, Assam will have some preferential consideration in the matter of allocation of the site for the Refinery. It was also understood that the capital expenditure that is to be borne by the Railway Board to make the necessary improvement of the Railway to facilitate the transport of oil from the refinery site to the distribution points will not be added to the capital expenditure of the refinery for the purpose of comparing the two project reporters. Now these terms have made our Government very sanguine in their belief that we are going to have the Refinery located in Assam. But, unfortunately, our Government have failed to take into account certain very important factors and therefore this optimism on the part of the Government appears to be misplaced. Firstly to have the refinery at Barauni pipelines for moving crude oil will have to be laid from Naharkatia to Barauni—pipelines of about 20 to 22 inches diameter, and as the crude oil is very heavy viscous and susceptible to ordinary temperatures, pumping arrangements will have to be provided for at every 30 miles or so. Further to keep the temperature of the crude oil at optimum point heating arrangement shall have to be made. Now possibly our Government have been calculating the cost of laying these pipelines which will be very high and therefore the Barauni project will have to be altogether dropped out.

Alternately, the Government are possibly arguing that if we have the Refinery somewhere in Assam, say at Amingaon, to which the crude oil may be brought by barges along the Brahmaputra, and from where the finished products may be taken away to a distribution points by a product pipeline, it would be financially and technically an easier proposition. That is possibly the reason that has made our Government cock-sure that we are going to have the Refinery in Assam.

This whole time of reasoning appears to me to be a risky one. Because in the matter of laying the pipelines from

Naharkatia to Barauni our calculation may not be accepted. Neither the experts of the Government of India nor the Ministers of the Assam Government have a control over the price of steel which will be brought from Great Britain, United States of America or Japan or West Germany at a price dictated by the big business magnets of those countries.

Secondly, Sir, the pumping sets or the heating arrangements will also be possibly supplied by those countries, therefore, here also our present calculation may not hold good. Moreover the cost of the transportation of the entire machineries from the port to Gauhati or to Barauni is a factor beyond the control of the State Government. We shall have to accept whatever figures the Steamer Companies and the Railway Board give us. In this connection I may mention that neither, the Government of India nor the Assam Government will be able to produce experts. We have I think laid too much emphasis on the enormous cost of laying these pipe lines. Another point is that even if we have the Refinery in the State sector, crude oil will have to be purchased from the Burma Oil Company, because we have already given them the prospecting and mining lease and, therefore, we cannot force them to sell the crude oil at a particular price. Even if we cancel the mining lease we may be sued for compensation and the compensation will be of such an order that we shall not be able to pay on account of shortage of foreign exchange.....

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : I want to know from the statement of my Friend what is the basis that the price of crude oil will be fixed either by Burma Oil Company, or Assam Oil Company ? There is a certain term which I cannot disclose regarding this point.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Uptill now the oil companies have got their own formula, namely, the Gulf parity formula, Mexican Gulf formula and the Persian Gulf formula. There is no likelihood for the oil companies to depart from their formulae, therefore, if the price is calculated on that basis the cost may be such that even if we have the Refinery in State sector.....

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI : The whole thing is that the Oil Refinery is to get out of all these gulf formulae. Every effort is made to that effect and the oil companies cannot fix prices without consulting the Government.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR : I am happy that Government is making every effort to defeat the game of the oil magnates who are fixing price of oil according to their formulae. I think, as we all know, even the Government of India have not be enable to defeat the game of the oil companies. Crude oil is also available in Indonesia and other places, therefore if the Government succeeds in defeating the game of the oil companies the price structure will naturally be affected there also. But the immediate question in supply of crude oil to our Refinery either at Barauni or at Gauhati and if the Government can defeat the game of the oil companies, certainly we shall all be happy.

If we consider the location of Refinery from the stand point of facilities, certainly Barauni is more advantageous. Barauni is centrally situated, The whole length of the Ganges from Barauni to Calcutta may be made navigable for the safe, easy and chief transport of crude oil, machinery and materials from the port of Calcutta and of the finished products to the important distribution centre, *viz.*, Calcutta. The whole of the Gangetic valley is within the easy reach of Barauni. Further the Refinery if installed at Barauni shall admit of future expansion as it might use crude oil from outside if necessary. It may not be very advantageous to have the Refinery located in Assam. We have not claimed it on that score. The people of Assam want to have the Refinery here in Assam for the simply reason that Assam is very much under developed ; and it is not possible to have any heavy industry here excepting the oil industry. No country can develop without a heavy industry as its base. We have enough rivers which may be harnessed for hydel power. But for lack of industries we shall not be able to consume the electrical energy that we may produce. In the Umtru Hydel Project for example we have a capacity 4,000 kilowats per hour, but we have as yet been able to consume only 400 kilowats, the rest we have at present, no use for. We have enormous natural wealth but we cannot utilise it, for we have neither industries nor developed transport system. Bamboo and wood we have in our forests, in abundance, but they are rotting in the jungles, as we cannot utilize them due to transport difficulties. We have mineral wealth, but mining industries are not fully developing. Our industries cannot develop because of a weak and under-developed transport system. But Nature has given us one solution and that is oil. Crude oil is found in our State and if the Refinery is established here it will break the industrial inertia of the

State, We have power potential which if we can develop and utilise, we may improve our transport system to the extent of having modern electric trains. The Refinery will set in motion a chain of industrial activity which shall ultimately enhance the resources of the State and raise the living standards of the people. Our demand is based on this ground. We want a decision from the Government of India simply on the ground that Assam remains undeveloped and it is the policy of the Government to remove regional imbalance. Our Government by making agreement have fallen into a trap. Sir, it is like a story of A & B fighting each other for Headmaster's prize. While the former is good in some subject the other is good in another subject, and as this could not easily be decided, naturally an examination has to be held. Now if in the examination A scores 90 per cent and B 80 per cent the only course left open for B would be to congratulate A on his success. I believe our Chief Minister may have an occasion to congratulate Barauni in the near future. Further Sir, this agreement has been made at the back of the people and without taking this House into confidence. This House adopted a Resolution regarding the location of the Refinery unanimously. But the Government have acted wrongly in making an agreement without taking the opinion of this House, I think this subject could have been discussed even informally. We have received the sympathy from the Centre and we shall continue to receive that sympathy but not the Refinery. Therefore, Sir, it was considered necessary to resort to Satyagraha to convince the Government of India that the Refinery is our birth right. We want the decision to be made before the Government appoint an Experts Committee to find out the best location for the Refinery. Now Sir, it has been found that our Government have shirked their own responsibilities, and have placed the burden on the technicians, the technicians of the Centre and the State. But it is surely not a fight between two groups of technicians. It is a fight between the Centre and the State on the question of principle—on a matter of a policy. The location of the Refinery in Assam is largely a matter for decision at a political level rather than an economic and technical level. But it is being viewed as if it is a technical problem. We do not like these things and the country is not prepared to accept such things. If the justice is not done, the people shall take the initiative in their own hands. The people now feel that if the Government fail, they will have to come to the rescue and take the leadership in their hands and make the Central Government recognise their basic right the right to have the refinery in this State. They know it is not possible to develop this State without heavy

industries. Therefore Sir, the situation that has been created by the Satyagraha movement has made the people realise that the agreement that has been made by the State Government with the Central Government is ruinous to the country which may block the scope for future development of this State. We even now feel that Government will take a decision before having the project report. Project report, may be called for even after the decision is taken. After all in the matter of the cost of installation of refinery either at Barauni or at Gauhati the difference will not be very much. But we want the refinery above all to give an impetus for the development of our transport system. Therefore, Sir, I am of the opinion that the refinery movement has given enthusiasm to the people and has created a propitious condition in which the Government might take a correct decision. The Satyagraha movement is at present a restricted one, but a time may come when it may be so wide as to invite the hon. Members sitting in the other side of the House to participate. Such a movement, I am sure, shall have to be continued, if the Government fail to retrace their steps, till our basic rights, namely, the right to live and to prosper and the right to use the gifts of nature for the benefit of the people, are acceded to.

With these words, Sir, I expect our Government will revise their decision and revoke the agreement on the issue.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North-Lakhimpur): অধ্যক্ষ

মহোদয়, মাননীয় গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই তেল শোধনাগাৰ সম্বন্ধে যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে সেই সম্বন্ধে মই দুই-চাৰি আঘাৰমান কৰলৈ ইচ্ছা কৰিছোঁ। প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ প্ৰসঙ্গত শ্ৰীযুত বৰঠাকুৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই যিবোৰ কথাৰ উল্লেখ কৰিছে, মোৰ বোধেৰে সেইবোৰ কথা প্ৰস্তাৱৰ লগত খাপ খোৱা নাই।

আমি সকলোৱেই তেল শোধনাগাৰ আমাৰ ৰাজ্যতে বিচাৰিছোঁ আৰু আমাক শোধনাগাৰ লাগে। কিন্তু গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে আৰু সেই প্ৰসঙ্গতে উল্লেখ কৰিছে যে তেখেতসকলৰ আন্দোলনৰ দ্বাৰা দেশত আজি এটা বিশেষ পৰিস্থিতিৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে। সেই বিষয়ে মই কব খোজোঁ যে এই আন্দোলনে দেশত কোনো পৰিস্থিতিৰ সৃষ্টি কৰা নাই আৰু ভবিষ্যতেও কৰিব পাৰিব বুলি মনে নধৰে। আমি সকলোৱে জানোঁ যে সত্যাগ্ৰহ এটা নৈতিক শক্তি। কিন্তু আজি যি সত্যাগ্ৰহ বুলি কোৱা হৈছে সি প্ৰকৃত সত্যাগ্ৰহ নহয়, তাত নৈতিক শক্তিৰ অভাৱ। এই সত্যাগ্ৰহৰ পৰা তেখেতে গৰ্ব অনুভৱ কৰিছে আৰু কৈছে যে তেখেতে সত্যাগ্ৰহ শিকাৰ পাৰে। (*Voice*—সেইদৰে নাই কোৱা।) তেখেতেই অকল সত্যাগ্ৰহ কৰা নাই—আমিও সত্যাগ্ৰহ কৰিছোঁ। ইয়াৰ তাৎপৰ্য্য অকল তেখেতেই নেজানে, আমি সকলোৱেই জানোঁ।

এতিয়া যি সত্যাগ্ৰহ কৰোৱা হৈছে, ই প্ৰকৃত সত্যাগ্ৰহ নহয়। এই সত্যাগ্ৰহ কিছুমান নজনা মানহৰ দ্বাৰাই কৰোৱা হৈছে যিবোৰে এই আন্দোলনৰ অৰ্থকে বুজি পোৱা নাই। বহুত সত্যাগ্ৰহীয়ে কয় যে “আমাৰ দেশত তেল নাইকীয়া হব। কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰে তেল নাইকীয়া কৰিব খুজিছে।” ইয়াৰ পৰাই সহজে বুজিব পাৰি সত্যাগ্ৰহৰ অৰ্থ তেওঁলোকে বুজিছেনে নাই। আন্দোলন পৰিচালনা কৰাৰ অজুহাত দেখুৱা যিসকল জনা লোক বা নেতা তেখেত সকলে নিজেই পাঁচ হোঁহোকা দি থাকি গ’ল আৰু নুবুজা মানুহবিলাকক জেললৈ ঠেলি পঠিয়ালে। গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াইও যদি সত্যাগ্ৰহ মানে জেললৈ

যোৱাকে বুজাইছে, তেন্তে দেশৰ বহুত মানুহেই জেললৈ যায়। তেওঁলোককো সত্যাগ্ৰহী বোলা হবনে? তেল শোধনাগাৰ আমাকো লাগে আৰু তাক পাবৰ কাৰণে আৱশ্যকীয় ব্যৱস্থা আমি গ্ৰহণ কৰিছো। কিন্তু আন্দোলন আৰু সত্যাগ্ৰহৰ অৰ্থ নুবুজা গাঁৱৰ লৰা কিছুমানক আনি কাৰাবৰণ কৰিবলৈ উদগনী দিয়াটো কিমান যুক্তিসংগত হৈছে সেইটো ভাবি চাবলগীয়া। সেই লৰাবোৰে সাধাৰণ কয়দীৰ লগত থাকি যদি চৰিত্ৰ নষ্ট কৰে, তেনেহলে তাৰ দায়িত্ব কোনে লব? আন্দোলনকাৰী নেতাসকলে এতিয়া দেখিছে যে আন্দোলন ক্ৰমে ঢিলা হৈ গৈছে, সেই কাৰণে বসতে নাম থৈ ইয়াৰ সামৰণী মাৰিবলৈ স্থিৰ কৰিছে। সেই কাৰণেই মই কওঁ যে থকৃততে ই এটা দলীয় স্বার্থ বন্ধাৰ বাবে কৰা আন্দোলন। ইয়াত জাতীয় স্বার্থ একো নাই। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা কিছুমান যুবকক ভুল পথে নি তেওঁলোকক নষ্ট কৰাৰ বাহিৰে আন একো হোৱা নাই। ই দেশত কোনো পৰিস্থিতিৰ সৃষ্টি কৰা নাই আৰু কৰিবও নোৱাৰে। আন্দোলনকাৰী নেতাসকলে যেতিয়া দেখিলে যে আন্দোলন চলোৱা টান হৈ পৰিছে, তেতিয়া তেওঁলোকে অহা ১৫ তাৰিখৰ ভিতৰত বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ স্থিৰ কৰিলে। পিচে এতিয়া জানিব পাৰিছো যে ১০ তাৰিখেই বন্ধ কৰা হ'ল। শোধনাগাৰৰ পৰিস্থিতিৰ কথা গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই নিজেও নেজানো বুলি কৈছে।

(A voice :—আপুনিও কব নোৱাৰে অসমতে হ'ব বুলি।)

নজনাটক কাম কৰিবলৈ গলেই মানুহ বিপদত পৰে। এই প্ৰসংগত হিতোপদেশৰ নাপিতৰ কথাটোলৈ মনত পৰিছে যে—“এসময়ত এটা নাপিতে আছিল কথা নজনাটক জৈন সন্যাসীক বধ কৰি সোণ তৈয়াৰ কৰিব খুজিছিল কিন্তু সোণ কৰিবৰ বাবে সি সন্যাসীক মাৰ-ধৰ কৰিলে হয় পিচে সোণ তৈয়াৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰি নিজেই বিপদতহে পৰিল”। সেইদৰেই এতিয়া শোধনাগাৰৰ নামত সত্যাগ্ৰহ আৰম্ভ কৰি মাত্ৰ সবল-সহজ যুৱক সকলক বিপদত পেলোৱা হৈছে। তেল শোধনাগাৰ যে অসমত হ'ব লাগে এইটো আমি সকলোৱে বিচাৰো আৰু তাৰ বাবে আৱশ্যকীয় পন্থা আমি গ্ৰহণ কৰিছো। আমি চিন্তা কৰি তাৰ পথ অনুসৰণ কৰিম; যেয়ে যিহকে কয় তাকে কৰি বিপদ মাতি আনিব নোৱাৰোঁ। গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াক জনাওঁ যে ন্যায় আৰু নীতি অনুসৰি যেই কোনো ত্যাগকে বৰণ কৰিবলৈ আমিও সাজু আছোঁ। ইয়াকে কৈ মই বক্তব্য সামৰিলো।

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):

Sir, I congratulate Mr. Borthakur for his speech in which he has enlightened the House about oil technology to some extent. His speech contained some points of justification about the establishment of the refinery in Assam, but I could not follow how he could justify the Satyagraha.

The Mover of the Motion Shri Goswami, at the outset condemned this side of the House by stating that to the whole movement has been imputed some motive. He meant to say that this side of the House has imputed motive to their endeavour of having the oil refinery in Assam. Sir, we never imputed any motive to their movement, because we also supported the oil refinery demand and we unanimously adopted a Resolution on the floor of this House that the oil refinery should be established in Assam. But Sir, their action has given scope to such interpretation. Sir, when the Action Committee passed a Resoluition asking the people of Assam to dissociate with the ensuing Congress Session which will be held at Gauhati shortly, is it not some amount of politica

motive given to this movement by themselves ? The Action Committee also passed a Resolution asking the people to boycott the State function in connection with the Independence Day. Is it not also some amount of political motive imputed to this particular movement ? Mr. Goswami said that this side of the House had made this demand purely a party demand. I ask Mr. Goswami whether he was not consulted by the Leader of the House in the evening when the news appeared in the Press that the Government of India had finally settled to have the refinery at Barauni ? Then, Sir, was he not requested to accompany the Leader of the House in the delegation to Delhi after which he (Mr. Goswami) issued a statement in the Press that he and the Action Committee had no belief in any sort of negotiation and therefore he declined to accompany the Leader of the Delegation ?.....

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): On a point of clarification, Sir. My friend is wrong in saying that I ever issued any statement in the Press after I was offered to accompany the Leader of the delegation to Delhi. I issued a statement after I met the Leader of the Delegation at Gauhati on his arrival back from Delhi.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamarpur): It was stated in the press news that the Action Committee did not believe that the negotiation would be able to do anything in the establishment of the refinery in Assam. For taking passive participation on the 29th July in the strike and Hartal he also congratulated this side of the House and in spite of that how can he say that this side of the House is against the demand to have the oil refinery here in Assam ? This demand for establishing the refinery within the State is the demand of all the persons of the State. What the Leader of the House said was that at present this movement was unnecessary for the reason that the final settlement or the final decision of the Government of India has not yet been given whether the refinery would be established at Barauni or at Gauhati and this matter is still under consideration. Therefore it is stated that such a movement will not strengthen our demand, but perhaps weaken it and therefore we are not a party to any such sort of movement. We must do things in a democratic way for having this demand of ours fulfilled, but we cannot be a party to any sort of agitation at the present stage when the final decision of the Government of India has not yet been announced. I am surprised to find that when the Leader of the House made a statement on this point my Friend has brought such a Motion before the House.

With these words, Sir, I oppose this particular Motion brought by my Friend Mr. Goswami before the House.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was wondering when I found this Motion of Mr. Goswami to discuss the situation created by the oil refinery movement in Assam. After the speech made by Mr. Goswami he made an announcement that the oil refinery movement has been called off as he said that owing to this movement for oil refinery we have got a bridge over the Brahmaputra and a railway zone. I wonder how this question can come while discussing a Motion which is mainly concerned with the establishment of the refinery in Assam.

I am still puzzled as to how Mr. Goswami can establish the fact we have called off the movement for the oil refinery in Assam because out of it we have got a bridge over the Brahmaputra and a railway zone. I think these words are fit for propaganda purposes only in the villages and not in this august House (*A voice: Hear, hear*) Our only objection to this movement is that this is not the proper time to have this movement when the whole matter is under negotiation. Sir, it is known to everybody that when a particular matter is under negotiation no party should indulge in such things as may affect the decision on the very particular issue. It is only with this idea that we objected. When the matter has been reopened and the whole question is being examined *de novo* there should not be any movement in Assam which will affect the very purpose for which the movement is launched. Therefore, Sir, we do not like that at this stage there should be any movement or Satyagraha. Another situation created by this movement is that it has shown disunity in its own rank and file. Mr. Goswami wanted to unify all the people of Assam on this issue, but we find in the papers complaints are being made that some of the leaders have courted jail on this issue and some leaders have remained outside. This has really created a division amongst them and has done harm to the cause of Assam. I do not know, Sir, what will be the reaction in New Delhi.

Another thing I would like to say is that everybody in Assam is very serious about the location of the oil refinery in Assam and this has been expressed in this House as well as in the public platform. As a matter of fact our Government has taken a very serious view and has taken a bold stand

on this issue. We have not only taken a stand on this issue but we have been trying to establish our case before the Central Government and for that matter we have been deputing people outside the country to find out as to the feasibility of locating the refinery in Assam.

Another aspect also we must consider is that we are not fighting against any alien Government. In a democratic set-up when we want to establish a case, the only way is to establish it with facts, figures and reasoning. So, Sir, I am very glad that at last better sense has prevailed and the Refinery Movement has been called off. But I do not agree with Mr. Goswami that the situation created by the movement is what he wanted us to believe. With these few words, I oppose this motion.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অসমত তেল শোধনাগাৰ স্থাপন সম্পৰ্কে বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতা শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী আৰু সদস্য শ্ৰীযুত বৰঠাকুৰৰ পৰা যিখিনি যুক্তি শুনিলো তাত তেল শোধনাগাৰ যে আসামত হোৱা নিতান্ত প্ৰয়োজন তাবহে যুক্তিতেখত সকলে দিলে, সত্যাপ্ৰহৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তাৰ যুক্তি তেওঁলোকৰ বক্তৃতাত নাই। তেল শোধনাগাৰ অসমত প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত হোৱা সম্বন্ধে কাৰো মতভেদ নাই আৰু সেই সম্বন্ধে এই সদনে প্ৰস্তাৱো গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে। কিন্তু সত্যাপ্ৰহ আন্দোলনৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তাত তেওঁলোকৰ যুক্তি তেনেই দুৰ্বল, কাৰণ ইয়াৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তাও নাই আৰু বিৰোধীদলৰ ইয়াত একাগ্ৰতাৰো অভাৱ বুলি মোৰ দৃঢ় ধাৰণা।

এটা ঘটনাই মোৰ এই ধাৰণাটো দৃঢ় কৰিলে, ঘটনাটো এই—এদিন নগাৱৰ কাছাৰিত উপায়ুক্তৰ অফিচকমত চৰকাৰী বিষয়া আৰু বেচৰকাৰী মুখীয়াল লোকসকলে এখন চৰকাৰী বিষয়ৰ আলোচনা সভাত, সত্যাপ্ৰহ আন্দোলন চলোৱা দলবোৰৰ এটি মুখ্যদলৰ এজন মুখ্য নেতাই যি তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰাদেশিক Organisation ৰ এজন মুখীয়াল নেতাই, ৫ মিনিট মানৰ কাৰণে চুটিলৈ গৈ পুনৰ ৭ মিনিট মানৰ পাচত আহি এই সভাত যোগ দিয়ে হি। এই সময়ত সত্যাপ্ৰহী সকলে উপায়ুক্তৰ ওচৰত 'কাম বন্ধ কৰক কাম বন্ধ কৰক' বুলি ধ্বনি তুলি আছিল আৰু সেই নেতা জনে তেওঁলোকলৈ আওকান কৰি নিজে কামত ব্যস্ত আছিল। এই নেতাজনেই বাহিৰলৈ গৈ উক্ত সত্যাপ্ৰহী কেজনক বঙাফুলৰ মালা পিন্ধাই সত্যাপ্ৰহ কৰিবলৈ আগবঢ়াই দি আহিছিলগৈ। তেখেতই স্পষ্ট প্ৰমাণ কৰে যে, তেল শোধনাগাৰ স্থাপন সংক্ৰান্তত যি সত্যাপ্ৰহ আন্দোলন আছিল—তাত আনকি নেতা সকলে নিজেই অৱহেলা কৰি আনৰ দ্বাৰাই—কাম চলাইছিল আৰু যি সত্যাপ্ৰহৰ কথা কৈছে—সি অতি দুৰ্বল আন্দোলন আৰু ই জনসাধাৰণৰ আন্দোলন নহয়। তেখেত সকলে আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত এইটোও আখ্যা দিছে যে—এই আন্দোলন জন আন্দোলন আৰু ই Democratic way ত হৈছে। এই কওঁ তেখেত সকলৰ এই দাবী ভুল আৰু অযুক্তিসংগত—কাৰণ Democratic way ত আন্দোলন হলে—তাৰ মূলভেটি Facts আৰু Figure ত প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত হব লাগিব। তেখেত সকলৰ সত্যাপ্ৰহ Facts and Figure ৰ লগত কোনো সামঞ্জস্য নাই আৰু ই বিৰোধী দলৰ নিজৰ আশঙ্কাৰ ওপৰত ভেটি কৰি সহজ সবল অস্ত্ৰ মানুহ এক-শ্ৰেণীক 'জেললৈ পঠোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা মাত্ৰ। তেখেত সকলে আশঙ্কা কৰি ভাবিছে যে বৰকাৰৰ দ্বাৰা আমি তেল শোধনাগাৰ আসামত নাপাও আৰু সেই কাৰণে আমি ইয়াৰ হকে আন্দোলন এটা কৰিব লাগে। তেখেত সকলৰ এই মনোভাৱ আৰু কাৰ্য্য কৰণৰ ব্যৱস্থা শুদ্ধ নহয়। তাৰ পিচত তেওঁলোকে নিশ্চয় জানে যে এই সদনৰ যোৱা অধিবেশনত

এই বিষয়ে বিশেষ ভাৱে আলোচনা হৈছিল আৰু এটা প্ৰস্তাৱৰ দ্বাৰা এই সদনে দাবী জনাইছে। সেই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ ওপৰতে ভিত্তিকৰিয়েই আমাৰ এটা সজাতি দলে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰক Location Committee ৰ Report ত থকা দেখুৱাই দিয়াৰ ফলত বাৰুণীত হৰ পৰা সিদ্ধান্ত পুনৰ নাকচ কৰি পুনৰ বিবেচনাৰ কাৰণে দুখন Project ৰিপোর্ট তৈয়াৰ কৰিবলৈ ভাৰত চৰকাৰে নিৰ্দেশ দিছে। এই ৰিপোর্ট পূৰা হলে তেল শোধনাগাৰ স্থান নিৰ্ণয় হব আৰু মোৰ বিশ্বাস ই অসমতেই হব। বিৰোধী দলৰ অসমত তেল শোধনাগাৰ স্থাপন নহব, এই মনোভাৱ এতিয়াও পোষণ কৰি দেশৰ অক্ষলৰ হকে কৰা আন্দোলন ঠিক হোৱা নাই। তেল শোধনাগাৰ সম্বন্ধত গঢ়িতোলা তেখেত সকলৰ এই সত্যাগ্ৰহ আন্দোলন Facts and Figure ৰ ওপৰত প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত হোৱা হলে বা চৰকাৰে অসমক অন্যাৰ কৰা কোনো সিদ্ধান্তৰ পিচত এনে আন্দোলন হোৱা হলে সি নিশ্চয় অসমীয়া ৰাইজৰ আন্দোলন হ'ল হেতেন। কিন্তু সেয়ে নহৈ এতিয়া অন্যভাৱে এই আন্দোলন গঢ়িতোলাত—কাৰো উপকাৰ হোৱা নাই—ৰাইজৰো নহ'ব আৰু তেল শোধনাগাৰ স্থাপন কাৰ্য্যতো সহায়ত হোৱা নাই। বৰং ই আমাৰ মানুহৰ দুৰ্বলতাৰ হে পৰিচয় দিছে। এইটো অৰ্থাৎ তেখেত সকলৰ সত্যাগ্ৰহ আন্দোলনটোৰ মূল্য থাকিলহেঁতেন যদি এই বিষয়ত চৰকাৰৰ-কাৰ্পণ্য পৰিলক্ষিত হ'লহেতেন। মই আগতে কৈ আহিছো—চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ত যথেষ্ট মনযোগ দিছে আৰু তেল শোধনাগাৰ অসমত হোৱাৰ কাৰণে Project report তৈয়াৰৰ যথাযোগ্য সকলো দিহা কৰাত অলপো কাৰ্পণ্য কৰা নাই। আৰু ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰস্তাৱিত প্ৰজেক্ট ৰিপোর্ট তৈয়াৰ কৰাৰ পথত—অসমৰ পক্ষে Expert opinion তৈয়াৰ কৰাৰ দিহা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ এজনা মন্ত্ৰীক এই বিষয়ে জানি আহিবলৈ আৰু direct বোগাযোগৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ বিদেশলৈ পঠোৱা হৈছে। আৰু তেনে অৱস্থাত—বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতা আৰু সদস্য সকলে যেনে শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী আৰু.....

Mr. SPEAKER: বিৰোধীদলৰ সদস্য সকলক পোনপটীয়া ভাৱে সম্বোধন নকৰিব ?

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): নকৰো আৰু চাব। তেখেত সকলৰ বিভিন্ন পাৰ্টিৰ সজীবনীৰ হকে এই আন্দোলন কৰি থকা ঠিক হোৱা নাই। আচলতে এই সত্যাগ্ৰহ আন্দোলন—বিৰোধী পাৰ্টি বিলাক জীয়াই থাকিবলৈ হে কৰা হৈছে আৰু এই আন্দোলনে কোনো বৰঙনী অসমৰ ৰাইজ অথবা শোধনাগাৰ স্থাপনত যোগাৰ পৰা নাই আৰু ই complete failure হৈছে। আমি জানো ১৯৪২ চনৰ আন্দোলনত ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ নেতা সকলে পোন প্ৰথমতে আন্দোলনত নাগি—কাৰাবৰণ কৰিছিল আৰু আৰু তেখেত সকলৰ পিচত আছিল দেশৰ অগণন নব-নাৰী। তেল শোধনাগাৰ স্থাপন সম্পৰ্কীয় তথাকথিত আন্দোলনত আমি তেনে আদৰ্শ পোৱা নাই—যি সকল ইয়াৰ নেতা—তেওঁলোকে এক শ্ৰেণীৰ নিজ্জু আৰু সবল লোকৰ মাজত সচাক্ষা কবলৈ হলে ভ্ৰান্ত কিছুমান ভাবাবেগ সুমাই দি বিপথে চলাই লৈ গৈছে—; তেওঁলোকক বুজাই দিছে—‘আমাক আৰু কেবাচিন তেল নোপোৱা কৰিলে—’। প্ৰকৃততে যি শ্ৰেণীৰ লোকে এই সত্যাগ্ৰহত কাৰাবৰণ কৰিলে তেওঁ লোকে কেবাচিন পাবলৈ নোহোৱা অৱস্থাৰ বাহিৰে প্ৰকৃত বিষয়টো কি—একো নাজানে। সেই কাৰণে মই কওঁ—এই আন্দোলন কেৱল—বিৰোধী ৰাজনৈতিক দল বিলাকক জীয়াই ৰাখিবলৈ কৰা হৈছে আৰু ই কেতিয়াও তেল শোধনাগাৰ স্থাপনৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত সহায় কৰা নাই। ভবিষ্যতে যদি বিভিন্ন ৰাজনৈতিক দলবিলাকে এই ধৰণৰ আন্দোলনো কৰে—তেন্তে সেই বিলাকো এই আন্দোলনৰ দৰে অকৃত কাৰ্য্য হৈ পৰিব। সেই কাৰণে মই বিৰোধী দলৰ এই প্ৰাস্তৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰো বৰং তেখেত সকল যেন এনে কাৰ্য্যৰ পৰা বিৰত থাকে তাকে অনুৰোধ কৰিলোঁ।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় আজি Oil Refinery ৰ বিষয়ে গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই আলোচনা মুকলি কৰাৰ সুযোগ লৈ মই মাত্ৰ দু-আঘাৰ মান কবলৈ ওলাইছোঁ। আজি ৩৪ মাহ মান আগতে নগা পাহাৰৰ কথা আলোচনা হওতে আমি এই সদনতে শুনিবলৈ পাইছিলো যে Ruling Party ৰ চেষ্টাত নগা সকল আমাৰ ফাললৈ আহিছে। তেতিয়া আমাৰ ভাল লাগিছিল যে Ruling Power এ এটা কাৰ্য্যকৰী কাম কৰিব পাৰিছে বুলি। আজি আকৌ ঠিক সেই দৰে Oil Refineryৰ বিষয়েও কংগ্ৰেছী সভা সকল আশা প্ৰদ বুলি দেখুৱাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। Oil Refinery ৰ চিন্তাৰ কাৰণেই Leader of the House ৰ বোম্বাৰো হৈছে, আৰু অসমত Oil Refinery হলে তেখেতৰ অস্থখো হয়তো ভাল হৈ আহিব। কিন্তু বৰ্তমানলৈকে ভাৰত চৰকাৰে অসমৰ স্বাৰ্থৰ ফালে বিশেষ মনোযোগ দিয়াৰ বিশেষ লক্ষণ আমি দেখা নাই। যিহওক Ruling Party ৰ পৰা আশ্বাস পোৱা কাৰণে অসমৰ জনসাধাৰণে এতিয়াও পূৰ্ণ আন্দোলন কৰা নাই। তথাপিও আংশিকৰূপে আন্দোলন হোৱা স্বত্বেও এহেজাৰ মানুহ এতিয়ালৈকে জেললৈ গৈছে।

(Voice:—পাটোৱাৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ এই আন্দোলনত বৰঙনি কিমান ?)

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : সেই কথা জন-সাধাৰণে জানে বা সময় আহিলে দেখুৱাই দিয়া হব। এটা কথাত মই আচৰিত হৈছোঁ যে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে সংবিধানৰ নীতি উলঙ্ঘা কৰি এই আন্দোলনত হাত দিছে। আমাৰ চৰকাৰী অফিচাৰৰ তিৰোতা সকলে আন্দোলনত যোগ দিয়াৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে এখন Circular দিছিল যে অফিচাৰ সকলে তেওঁলোকৰ Wife সকলক Control কৰিব লাগে, যাতে তেওঁলোকে যোগ দান নিদিয়। অফিচাৰ সকলে ১০টাৰ পৰা ৫ টাৰ বাহিৰৰ সময় খিনিত হয়তো তেওঁলোকৰ Wife সকলক Control কৰিব পাৰিব কিন্তু অফিচৰ সময় খিনিৰ ভিতৰত কেনেকৈ Control কৰে ? এনে ধৰণৰ Control যদি দৰকাৰ তেনেহলে চৰকাৰে তেনেকুৱা Rule কৰিব পাৰিলে ভাল আছিল।

মুঠৰ ওপৰত Oil Refinery লাগেই আৰু তাৰ কাৰণে যদি আকৌ আন্দোলন কৰিব লগীয়া হয় তেনেহলে আন্দোলন কৰিব লাগিব।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home and Education): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after hearing the speeches of my Honourable Friends Shri Goswami and Shri Borthakur, I feel convinced that the motion that has been placed before the House is not very happily drafted. The motion as it stands, before the House, has very limited scope. Shri Goswami and Shri Borthakur have referred to matters beyond the scope of the motion, and they wanted to justify the action taken by them regarding launching of the Satyagraha movement and these things are not clearly relevant. Any way, I will try my best to reply to them but I am sorry to add that my Friend who moved the motion is not present now in the House to hear my reply to he points raised by him.

Mr. SPEAKER: According to the Parliamentary practice, the hon. Member who moves a motion should be in the House to hear the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister to the points raised by the hon. Member.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home and Education): Sir, we feel that there is no justification for them for launching a Satyagraha Movement of this kind. In any way, when my honourable Friends, Shri Goswami and Shri Borthakur, have raised such points, I must reply point by point.

My honourable Friend, Shri Goswami, has pertinently brought certain facts before the House. They have resorted to Satyagraha movement on account of certain doubts that remain in their minds. As there has been no clarification to those doubts which have been raised by my honourable Friend, they resorted to Satyagraha movement. I would like to reply to his points one by one.

He said that after the return of the delegation from New Delhi after discussing matters with the Prime Minister and other Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of India a statement was issued by the Chief Minister, and that on perusal of that statement Shri Goswami was not convinced and did not find anything to remove his doubts. Therefore he resorted to Satyagraha movement. Doubts are like—(1) that a signboard has been placed at Barauni for a site for the Oil Refinery ; (2) the final decision taken by the Government of India regarding location of the Oil Refinery at Barauni still remains, and it is not altered, (3) That settled fact about Barauni is still there and could not be unsettled by our delegation, (4) that the statement of the Prime Minister has given more emphasis on technical and economic grounds. Here my Friend, Mr. Borthakur, also is at one with Shri Goswami in that they apprehend that on technological grounds and also on economic grounds the Gauhati refinery may not be a sound proposition. Therefore both of them want that this matter should be decided on political ground only. These are their points.

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: On a point of information Sir, I would like to know whether at any time Government communicated to the Central Government that if this question

is not taken into consideration in favour of Assam, then the entire Cabinet would resign ? That is also a political consideration.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home and Education): No, Sir, no communication of that kind was ever communicated to the Central Government nor was it ever made for that matter.

Now, Sir, if they are really sensible men as they are expected to be—they are hon. Members of this House and they are all highly educated men, it is really surprising that they should resort to Satyagraha of this nature on such flimsy grounds that certain points were not clear. If they had any doubt on any point, the best thing for them to do was to have that point clarified. I would ask my Friend, Shri Borthakur, who is present here and also through him to Mr. Goswami who is absent..... whether such action with serious consequences was warranted at all ?

Shri JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): On a point of clarification, Sir. There was a ruling from the Chair sometime in 1937 that when a Member of the Cabinet is absent from the House at any time one of his colleagues may note down the points discussed as it is their joint responsibility. Similarly now when Shri Goswami, the Leader of the Opposition is absent, we are taking notes for him.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not object to anyone absenting from his seat but I objected to Mr. Goswami because it was he who moved this motion but did not wait to hear a reply to it.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA As I have said, Sir, the best thing for them would be to get this clarification from appropriate quarters. This clarification could have easily been given to them by the Chief Minister himself if he had been asked to do so. But instead of doing that they have resorted to this Satyagraha movement. I would respectfully ask my Friends whether they have at any time approached the Chief Minister to discuss these things after he had issued his statement. They have not done that. So where is the justification for this movement ? Sir, we have all seen the result of this movement—near about one thousand persons have been taken to jail.

Again, Sir, is the movement of this nature at all justified on any other ground ? My Friend, Shri Borthakur, is saying that he is anticipating that the Government of India may go

against us or that the experts in preparing the project report may be influenced by interested parties and their report may go against us and so we may not get the refinery. On that anticipation only they have launched this Satyagraha movement. Sir, it is not correct to entertain such anticipation—we have left these things to experts—we are not expert ourselves. Then again, my Friend, Mr. Borthakur, was anticipating that the expert report will be against us on technological and economic ground and therefore he is asking the people to come to a decision on a matter of this magnitude on a political ground alone.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):

My point is that the decision on the location of the refinery should be taken finally on a political basis as a matter of policy.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home and Education): Sir, if decision for location of an industry is taken on political ground alone, where that will lead us ? So.....

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR : There are instances the world over that some important decisions have been taken on political basis.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : I am sorry I cannot accept the contention of my Friend, Sir, that location of an industry should be decided on political ground alone. Sir, if that contention is acceded to, if this Government or any other Government acceded to that, what would be the consequences ? Say, for instance, if location of a paper industry, or a jute mill or things of that kind is decided on political ground alone, the people of Goalpara would demand that it should be located in Goalpara, people of Nowgong would demand that such and such industry should be located in their area. What then would the Government do ? What would the Government do if the question of location of industries is left to political parties to be pulled this way and that way without consideration whether it is economically or technically proper and sound to do so. Sir, these are untenable suggestions and on such untenable considerations my Friends have launched this Satyagraha movement.

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari, (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I know whether Government approve or disapprove of this Satyagraha movement ? From the fact that all prisoners taken in this connection have

now been released and pending cases against others are being withdrawn, it appears that Government approve of this movement.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home and Education): Sir, Government never approved a movement of this kind. Our case is that this movement is absolutely unwarranted.

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: If the Government do not approve of the movement, how and why did they come to the present decision to set the Satyagrahis imprisoned in connection with the refinery movement at liberty ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : I am going to reply to the point raised by my Friend, Sangma. But before that I would make this humble submission, Sir, I am only surprised at the contention of my Friend, Shri Goswami, the Leader of the Opposition, that decision on location of industry be taken on political ground. Some youngsters were misguided and instigated to take resort to the so-called Satyagraha movement with a view to forcing the hands of the Government to make a declaration that the refinery would be located in Assam on political ground. Now my Friend is the Leader of the Opposition, tomorrow he may be occupying the treasury bench, will he then go to decide the location of an industry, be it small or large, simply on political consideration alone ? They now want to have the location of the refinery at Gauhati on political ground, and political ground alone, and therefore they are launching this movement which they call Satyagraha. This kind of movement on such ground is not at all justifiable, and I hope the House will agree with me on this point.

Now, Sir, as I have already stated, my Friend, Shri Goswami, himself was requested by our Chief Minister to accompany him to Delhi so that he might have an interview with the Prime Minister, if not with the Congress delegation which was entirely separate from the Government delegation, at least separately, which, I am sure, could have been arranged by the Chief Minister if he would only have given assent to the Chief Minister's request.

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : On a point of clarification, Sir, the Chief Minister did not make it clear whether he wanted Shri Goswami to accompany as an appendix to the Congress delegation or as the Leader of the Opposition.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home and Education) : If the hon. Leader had any confusion in his mind regarding this point, he could have sought for a clarification from the Chief Minister.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition was then the Chairman of the Action Committee of the Satyagraha movement. As I had some doubt because of a resolution passed by this Party that he might not join the Congress delegation, I requested him, as a responsible person, not as the Chairman of the Action Committee, to go to Delhi and have an interview with the Prime Minister on the refinery issue. If, however, he would have told me that he would like to have the interview not with the Congress delegation, then in that case, I am sure, I could have arranged for him a separate interview with the Prime Minister, and as a matter of fact, I arranged such an interview for Shri Hem Barua, Praja Socialist Party Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha.

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : If it was a Congress delegation, then it was only natural that Shri Goswami refused to accompany the Congress delegation to Delhi.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI : As a party here in this House, it is true, we represent the Congress Party, but as a Government we represent every party here in this House. Yes, the Congress party led a delegation to Delhi, but as a Government, it had its own delegation too, which went separately.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want any discussion in the House as whatever discussion I had with the Leader of House on this point was of a very private nature. But as he had referred to the matter on the floor of the House, I now feel it necessary to say that he invited me to go to Delhi. It was, as if, I would go, and he would arrange the interview. The hon. Leader of the House was aware that I was the Chairman of the Action

Committee at that time. If his intention was that I should go to Delhi as the Chairman of the Action Committee, he could have told me so. This was not done. He only said, "Well, you come, and I shall arrange an interview." Well, what sort of an interview, I do not know.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): In this connection, one thing has not been stated. When I invited him, he told me that he could not say definitely whether he would be in a position to go, but that he would first consult the the Action Committee and then let me know. But later on I received a telegram from him at Delhi that he could not go. The copy of that telegram is with me now.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home and Education): So, Sir, it is clear that if only he would have stated his intention clearly to the Chief Minister, that he would go to Delhi in case an independent interview was arranged and not as the Leader of the Opposition but as the Chairman of the Action Committee, that could have been arranged as the hon. Members have themselves heard from the Chief Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: This matter has been talked of enough, much more than is necessary, and I would request the Hon'ble Minister, so far as this particular point is concerned, not to dilate on it any more.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Yes, Sir, but what I want to point out is that the hon. Leader of the Opposition could have got the position clarified from the Chief Minister if only he so desired. But instead of this, to set a volt face to the humble request of the Chief Minister of the State does not speak very eloquently of the high sense of public duty which the hon. Leader of Opposition possesses, I am sure, in such an abundant measure.

Now, Sir, our case all along was that all the facts that were necessary to arrive at the decision for locating the refinery had been gone into, and that in case all these facts were properly placed before Prime Minister, the decision might be different. So, with this intention we went to Delhi, and the result is well known. We got the decision once arrived at reopened. And if again it is decided to instal the refinery

at Barauni, that will require a second decision. Under the circumstances there was no justification, when the whole question has been kept open, to resort to a Satyagraha.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 12-30. The House will now adjourn for lunch till 2 P.M. when the Minister-in-charge will resume his speech.

Adjournment

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

After Lunch

(Deputy Speaker, presided).

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home and Education): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from the speeches of the hon. Members of this House I have already shown their reason for launching this Satyagraha movement. This movement was either launched for clarification of doubts or for having certain political decision about the location of the refinery in Assam. Now, Sir, my respectful submission is whether they have got their objective fulfilled. Nowhere have my Friends said that they have got their objective fulfilled but they have withdrawn this movement without having their objective fulfilled. And why? Sir, it must be either they have failed in their objective or there may be some other conclusion. Sir, though my Friends have not admitted their failure in this movement but the fact remains that they have withdrawn the movement and though they do not admit the failure of the movement the conclusion is irresistible, that it failed. They launched this movement with certain objective in view, either for the clarification of doubts or a political decision about the location of the Refinery in Assam. Sir, if my Friends do not admit the failure, there may be other conditions—namely, that my Friends have realised their mistakes and therefore they have withdrawn the movement after realising their own mistakes and I am sure my Friends have realised their own mistakes because people do not come forward now to join the movement. Therefore, Sir, from whatever stand point the matter is looked into, it has become quite clear or as clear as crystal water that the movement was not warranted by any circumstances and it was altogether unwarranted. That is my submission to you, Sir.

Then again, Sir, my Friends have confused two points. Two points are involved in this matter, one is the location of the refinery but as far as the location of the refinery is concerned, there is no question that we are all one in this matter.

The difference between my Friends on the opposite side and us on this side is on fundamental matters. Sir, they are confusing the two things, so far as the location of the refinery is concerned, we are all one and our difference is on the method of approval. So far as the Satyagraha movement is concerned, the country is not behind them, only a very small section of the people is behind the Satyagraha movement. The Satyagraha movement is not getting support from the country and so now my Friends have realised this and they have withdrawn the movement without having their objective fulfilled. Sir, my Friends want to have the refinery in Assam through a political decision and since they have failed in their objective, they have now withdrawn it. Now if we look to the number of persons courting arrest you will find that the number is daily on the decrease and it is crystal clear that the movement has become unpopular now. If any one reads the newspapers he will find that the number of persons for the Satyagraha movement is going down every day, that is also an indication that the movement is getting unpopular every day. This movement has not got the support of the whole country behind it and it has got no deep roots at all. Sir, my submission is that this movement was a movement of two or three political parties just to discredit the Congress, it is just to make the Congress unpopular that they have taken recourse to this kind of Satyagraha movement. Sir, my Friends wanted to unsettle the settled fact and that has been achieved by us. The decision had been taken that the location of the refinery would be at Barauni. That was regarded as a final decision. After the final decision was taken, our Chief Minister along with his other colleagues met the Prime Minister on a deputation and placed before the Prime Minister some material reasons which convinced the Prime Minister to agree to our point of view and, therefore, the decision to locate the refinery at Barauni had to be abandoned at least temporarily. In view of the facts placed before the Prime Minister he had to agree to reopen the case and allow the preparation of another Project Report with Gauhati as its site.....

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): In the Experts Committee Report, Gauhati was given the third place—Why is this new project report required?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home and Education): Sir, it needs only a little amount of imagination. If it was actually in the third place, that has been altered to a front place and now a project report is allowed to be made in respect of that place which was said to be occupying a third position. That

means Gauhati is no longer in the 3rd place, it has now come to occupy a front place. So I think I have been able to convince the House that by placing certain facts and figures and certain arguments which could not be refuted, we have succeeded in unsettling a settled fact and ultimately the Prime Minister had to agree to reopen the case. Sir, this is no mean achievement and we could achieve this success because reason and public opinion were behind us. Not only we could gather sufficient data, sufficient materials to place before the Prime Minister to convince him about our case, we had also the sympathy and support of political opinion of our country. All this led to our success. Therefore, when we could have the political sympathy of the entire country behind us, would it be prudent on our part now to eliminate that sympathy? Will it be wise for us to antagonise public sympathy that we have been getting so long? That is the reason why we have asked our Friends not to resort to a Satyagraha movement which may lead to antagonise public opinion in our country. With that end in view we wanted their co-operation in making the project report a success, we wanted their full support and co-operation in the preparation of a successful project report, and the Chief Minister made an appeal to all of them to extend their co-operation. But, Sir, what do we find to-day? No such response was coming forth from them; they did not give us any kind of assistance, any kind of co-operation. On the contrary, they launched a movement which was altogether unwarranted and unjustified. We have, by this movement, alienated public sympathy. I am just going to cite one single instance to convince the House how this kind of agitation has led to antagonise public sympathy in our country. It is known to the hon. Members of this House that the Praja Socialist Party Member from Gauhati who was returned to the Lok Sabha staged a walk-out from the Lok Sabha on this issue of refinery sometime before. Did anyone else of the Praja Socialist Party or of any other party follow him? When my Friend, Shri Barua, staged a walk-out with regard to this matter, he did not find a single Member in the Lok Sabha to support him, to stage a walk-out, along with him. Not to speak of other parties, even from his own party no Member followed him. That is a clear indication, if any indication is at all wanted, that we are fast losing sympathy not only of our own State but also of other places in India. That is what we apprehended has happened. We were apprehending that it would be injuring our very cause.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): I am afraid the Minister is confusing the issue. The walk-out was

on the 15th July long before the movement was started which was on 14th August.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home and Education): At any rate on this very issue the movement was started, an even before the starting of this movement, the agitation that was led by Shri Barua on the floor of the Lok Sabha had no support. That is a clear indication how things are going on, how we are fast losing public sympathy from our country. Government all along apprehended that a movement of this kind was likely to lead to unpleasant and undesirable consequences, a Satyagraha on an issue like this was likely to lead to unpleasant consequences. Government was apprehending that such a situation might arise any day which might cause breach of law, breach of peace and many unpleasant things. My Friend, Mr. Goswami, has moved the resolution to discuss the situation created by this movement. He moved the resolution with limited purpose but went beyond the scope of the resolution itself and he said lots of things about the necessity of this Satyagraha movement. He did not, however, have the goodness to say anything about undesirable consequences although it was known to him that this movement actually led to undesirable consequences. I only refer to him the incident of our Chief Minister at Gauhati after he returned from Delhi. I only refer to the incident in which our Chief Minister, after he returned from Delhi where he led a delegation to the Prime Minister, was manhandled at Gauhati. What a sad thing it is, Sir ! The Chief Minister led a delegation to New Delhi and was successful in unsettling a settled fact, in reopening the case and he wanted to make a statement in this connection, in a public meeting, organised in memory of late Desbhakta Tarun Ram Phukan. Our Chief Minister was invited by the organiser to make a statement as to what was the result of the delegation he led to Delhi. He attended the meeting and what happened ? It is known to all. I need not recapitulate those things here. It is very regrettable that an aged and respectable gentleman like our Chief Minister was surrounded by some people. He was confined there and he had to be rescued by students of some institutions who went there. It is a well known fact, Sir. The Chief Minister was not even allowed to make a statement and rather he was insulted in this way. So I was telling that such kind of movement would lead to undesirable consequences. I would have been glad if my Friend, Shri Goswami, in course of his statement would have made a reference to such an incident. But he has cleverly omitted all these things. That is why, Sir, I would only request my friend to make a note of such things—that such

undesirable things may happen if they resort to such a kind of Satyagraha without much thought and plan.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Sir, the Satyagraha was started on the 14 th of August and the incident took place on the 28th of July. So it has nothing to do with the Satyagraha movement. Between the 14 th of August and to-day can they say that any such incident has taken place ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home and Education): Before the Satyagraha was started, even when the preliminaries were being worked but by them, such unfortunate things happened and when they found this they should have abandoned such movement. As a matter of fact, Sir, if the Government did not take utmost precaution to avoid unpleasant incidents a very serious and unpleasant situation might have arisen as a result of their uncalled for and ill-conceived movement.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): আগার নেতাসকলক মই সোঁৱৰাই দিব খোজেঁ। যে এই সত্যাগ্ৰহ আৰু বেচি হব যদি তেল শোধনাগাৰ অসমলৈ আনিব নোৱাৰে। সেই কাৰণেই এই সদনত প্ৰশ্ন তোলা হৈছে এই তেল শোধনাগাৰ অসমত হবনে নহয়।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: Sir, here we are not concerned with whether the oil refinery will be established in Assam or not. We are concerned here with the resolution—the situation created by the Satyagraha movement. So far as the resolution is concerned our scope is restricted. My Friends, Shri Goswami and Shri Borthakur, should not have supported such movement where hundreds of youngsters were incited to launch such an uncalled for movement and court imprisonment. When we are all one in our demand what is the necessity of starting such a movement ? Let us have patience, let us see what are the contents of the report of the Expert Committee ; what is the Project report ? Before we have all these things it is quite premature to launch such a movement and to create such an unpleasant situation. It was only done to discredit the Congress Government, to make a political propaganda. This is my suspicion all along, otherwise I do not find any justification for this kind of uncalled for movement. Many a time we have asked for their co-operation in the matter of making out a successful Project Report, but we did not get their co-operation in such matters. They did not respond to such invitation. So I say this movement was started with a political motive behind it. There cannot be any other conclusion. That is my reply to some of the points of my Friends in the Opposition. With these observations, Sir, I resume my seat.

Resolution re: the abnormal fall in the prices of Agricultural produce.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move: "This Assembly do now take into consideration the critical situation created by the abnormal fall in the prices of Agricultural produces, particularly paddy and rice simultaneously with the rise in price level of other necessary commodities of daily use in the district of Cachar."

মহাশয়, এই জরুরী প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করে আমি অত্যন্ত গর্ব এবং একই সংগে বড় দুঃখ অনুভব করছি। গর্ব অনুভব করেছি এই কারণে যে, যখন সমস্ত দুনিয়া জোড়া চাউলের অভাব বলে আমাদের রাজ্য সরকারের কোন মন্ত্রী থেকে কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের ন্ত্রী এবং খাদ্য বিশেষজ্ঞরা ভারতের বদলে বিকল্প খাদ্য গ্রহণের উপদেশ দিচ্ছেন।

যখন রোমে রাষ্ট্রসংঘের খাদ্য এবং কৃষি সংস্থার বৈঠকে ভারতের প্রতিনিধি এবং ঐ সংস্থার ডাইরেক্টর-জেনেরেল শ্রীবি, আর, সেন এশিয়া এবং আফ্রিকার পশ্চাদপদ দেশের দুর্গতির কথা বলে উন্নত দেশগুলিকে মানবিকতার আদর্শে বুঝানোর বিরুদ্ধে সংগ্রামে অগ্রসর হয়ে আসবার জন্য আবেদন জানাচ্ছেন।

যখন ভারতের খাদ্যমন্ত্রী শ্রীঅজিত প্রসাদ জৈন রোম সম্মেলনে যোগদানের জন্য ত্রিয়ার প্রাক্কালে সান্তাক্রুজ বিমান ঘাটিতে সাংবাদিকদের কাছে "The food situation in India is difficult....." বলে মত প্রকাশ করেছেন তখন ভারতের একটি রাজ্যের বিধান সভায় একটি জিলার একজন কৃষক প্রতিনিধি ধান-চাউলের মূল্যের নিম্নগতি এবং উপযুক্ত মূল্য পাবার দাবীতে প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করতে পেরেছে একজন কৃষক প্রতিনিধি হিচাবে, কৃষক হিসাবে গর্ব এবং আনন্দ বোধ করবার কথা।

দুঃখ এবং লজ্জার কথা এইযে সরকারের ব্যর্থ খাদ্যনীতি এবং সরবরাহনীতি ফলে ১২টি জিলা দিয়ে গঠিত এই আসাম রাজ্যের একাংশে ধান-চাউলের উচ্চ মূল্য অন্যান্যদিকে নায্য মূল্যের জন্য দাবী সত্যি দুঃখ এবং লজ্জার কথা।

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Supply):
মন্ত্রী। লজ্জার বিষয় বলেছেন?

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA : সরকারের সরবরাহ নীতিতে হয়েছে, এটা Shameful. উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, কৃষিজাত দ্রব্যের বিশেষকরে চাউলের এই নিম্নমূল্যের আজ কাছাড় জিলার কৃষকদের সামনে এক চরম পরিস্থিতির সৃষ্টি করেছে। মহাজনের দেনা পরিশোধ, নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষ কিনা এই সমস্ত কারণে কৃষক তার মাঠের ফসল ঘরে তুলতে পারেনা। মহাজনের ত সপে দেয় সম্ভার দিনে—আকালের দিনে স্ত্রী-পুত্র নিয়ে উপবাসে থাকে আর একে ধিক্কার দেয়।

সরকার থেকে যে দু' একটা ব্যাঙ্ক খোলা হয়েছে বা দুই চারটা সমবায় ঋণদান সমিতি আছে তা হোমিওপ্যাথিক ডোজের মত প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় অতি নগণ্য—এটা সরকার স্বীকার করেছেন। কায়েই কৃষির জন্য যে নিম্নতম মূলধনের প্রয়োজন—হালের গরু, বীজধান এবং খরচের যে টাকার প্রয়োজন তা সংগ্রহ করতে না পেরে কৃষক হাতপেতে মহাজনের দ্বারে আর মহাজন তার মরশুমের সমস্ত ফসলটা তার ঘরে তুলবার ফন্দি করে টাকা ধান দেয় কৃষকদের—ধানের দর কমে যাওয়ায় যে ক্ষুদ্রে আসলে সমস্ত টাকা পরিশোধ করতে গিয়ে মাঠের ধানকে তুলে দেয় মহাজনের হাতে। এবৎসর তাও হবেনা জানি, লিখি দিতে হবে, কাজেই কৃষক হবে জমিহারা। এই হল গরীব এবং মধ্যবিত্ত কৃষকদের অবস্থা।

অবস্থাপনা কৃষকরাও আজ সঙ্কটে পড়েছে। একটা সাধারণ সাট তৈরী করতে লাগে ৭।৮ টাকা। একখানা ভাল ধুতির দাম ১০-১২ টাকা। তৈলের সের ২৫০-৩। এই বর্ধিত ব্যয় সংকুলানের জন্য অবস্থাপনা কৃষক বেশী ধান দিয়ে বাজারে উপস্থিত হয়। চাহিদার তুলনায় সরবরাহ বেশী হওয়ায় ধানের দর আরও নিম্নগামী হয়। কাজেই ক্রয় ক্ষমতা নেমে যায়। সংকট সর্বব্যাপী হয়।

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding): What is your suggestion ?

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA (Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes): অত অধৈর্য্য হচ্ছেন কেন? সমাধানের পথও আনি বলছি।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, কাছাড়ের কৃষক এবং সর্বস্তরের জনসাধারণকে রক্ষার জন্য একটা প্রস্তাব আনি দিচ্ছি। আশাকরি এই বিধান সভার সদস্য এবং মন্ত্রীসভা এটা বিবেচনা করে একটা সিদ্ধান্ত নিবেন।

(১) এখনই একটা নায্য দর বেঁধে দিয়ে সরকার থেকে সরাসরি আউস এবং শাইল ধান কিনতে হবে। মজদুদার এবং ব্যবসায়ীদের ধান কিনা বন্ধ করতে হবে।

(২) যাহাতে ধান-চাল নিয়ে কাটাকা বাজার সৃষ্টি না হয় সে জন্য এখনই মজদুদার এবং ব্যবসায়ীদের হাতে জমা ধান নায্য মূল্যে সরকারকে কিনে নিতে হবে।

(৩) সরকারী উদ্যোগে প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়েছে, এবং ঐ ব্যাঙ্কের গোদাম তৈরীর জন্য যে সরকারী পরিকল্পনা আছে তাহা ২।৩ মাসের মধ্যে কার্যকরী করতে হবে। ঐ সমস্ত ব্যাঙ্কে প্রচুর টাকা ঋণ দিয়ে ধান কিনবার ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।

(৪) সর্বাবস্থায় সরকারী ও ব্যাঙ্কের কেনা ধান শতকরা ৫০ ভাগ স্থানীয় ভাবে মজুত রাখতে হবে, যাহাতে চড়া দামের সময় সাধারণ লোকেরা সম্ভায় ঐ ধান কিনতে পারে।

(৫) চা বাগান গুলির সরাসরি ধান কিনা বন্ধ করে দিয়ে সরকার থেকে তাদের চাহিদা অনুযায়ী ধান সরবরাহ করতে হবে।

(৬) শুধু সীমান্ত অঞ্চলে ভাল ব্যবস্থা রেখে করিমগঞ্জ মহকুমার সমস্ত কর্তন ব্যবস্থা তুলে নিয়ে বাজারের সঙ্গে উৎপাদন কেন্দ্রের স্বাভাবিক যোগাযোগ ব্যবস্থা চালু করতে হবে।

(৭) শহরের ক্রেতাদের নায্য মূল্যে প্রয়োজনীয় চাউল সরবরাহের ব্যবস্থা চালু রাখতে হবে। বাধ্যতামূলক আটা বন্ধ করে দিতে হবে।

(৮) ধান কিনার জন্য নতুন কর্মচারী নিয়োগ না করে ২১৩ মাসের জন্য কৃষি এবং সরবরাহ বিভাগের কর্মচারী দিগকে নিয়োগ করতে হবে।

(৯) রাজ্যের যে সব এলাকায় বুরোধান চাষ হবার সম্ভাবনা আছে সেখানে জলের 'পাম্প' প্রভৃতি বিনামূল্যে দিতে হবে। বুরোধান চাষের উদ্যোগ সৃষ্টি করতে হবে।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমি আশা করি এই পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করে অগ্রসর হলে কাছাড়ের সমস্যার কিছু সমাধান হবে এবং রাজ্যের খাদ্য সংকটেরও একটা সমাধান হবে। এই উপলক্ষে আমি একটা কথা বলে রাখতে চাই যে, মাননীয় অর্থ এবং সরবরাহ বিভাগের মন্ত্রী মহোদয় আমার প্রস্তাবের উত্তর দিতে গিয়ে হয়ত বলবেন—গত জুন মাসের বিধান সভার অধিবেশনে কাছাড় থেকে ধান সাপ্লাই দেওয়ার আমি বিরোধী ছিলাম। আমি আজও বিরোধী। আমরা কাছাড়ের কৃষক এবং অন্যান্য জনসাধারণ চাই—নায্য মূল্যে আমাদের ধান বিক্রী করতে পারবো এবং এই ধান আসামের অন্যান্য দুর্গত জিলার সাধারণ ক্রেতারা নায্য মূল্যে ক্রয় করতে পারবেন। সরকারী সরবরাহ নীতির ফলে মুনাফাখোর ব্যবসায়ীরা সম্ভাব্যে ধান কিনে চড়া দামে বিক্রী করে—আমাদের জনসাধারণকে দুর্গত অবস্থায় ফেলবে—এই নীতির আমি সেদিন বিরোধী ছিলাম আর আজও বিরোধী।

Mr. SPEAKER: Reslution moved: "This Assembly do now take into consideration of the critical situation created by the abnormal fall in the prices of agricultural produces, particularly paddy and rice simultaneously with the rice in price level of other necessary commodities of daily use in the district of Cachar."

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Penary): উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমার বর্তমান দেশের পরিস্থিতির লগত খাপ খোঁরাবর কারণে কাছাড় জিলাৰ সদস্য শ্রীযুত মোস্তাফিজ ডাঙরীয়াই কাছাড় জিলাৰ ধান চাউলৰ দাম কমি গৈছে আৰু অন্যান্য যাবতীয় দ্রব্য দৰ বাঢ়ি আহিছে বুলি যি প্ৰস্তাৱ এই সদনত অবতারণা কৰি তাৰ সমাধান বিচাৰিছে—ইহ বিষয়ে মই অলপ কবলৈ আগবাঢ়িব খুজিছোঁ।

(আপুনি কাছাড় দেখিছে জানো?—*voices*) হয়, দেখিছোঁ। অকল সিয়েই হয়—কাছাড় জিলাৰ ৰূপ মোৰ পকেটতে আছে।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): On a point of clarification, Sir. My friend is the shortest-statured man in the House. How can he contain the whole of Cachar inside him? (*laughter*)

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI: কিছু সময় পিছত যেতিয়া অসম প্ৰধান শাসনলৈ আহিব তেতিয়া জানিব পাৰিব।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যেতিয়া এখন দায়িত্বপূৰ্ণ চৰকাৰ গঠন হয় তেতিয়া চৰকাৰে প্ৰধানীয় দৈনন্দিন জীৱন যাত্ৰাৰ পথত যাবতীয় জিনিচ পত্ৰৰ চৰা দাম হলে কি বিপদৰ সন্মুখীন হয় তাক উপলব্ধি কৰা প্ৰয়োজন। কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয়—আমাৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ উৎপাদিত ধান কম মূল্য আৰু আনহাতে জনসাধাৰণে ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা বস্ত্ৰৰ চৰা মূল্যৰ কথা চৰকাৰে

এতিয়াও উপলব্ধি কৰিব পৰা নাই। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা যে জনসাধাৰণৰ কিমান অসুবিধা হৈছে— সেইটো চৰকাৰে বুজিও চকু মুদি আছে। আপোনালোকে জানে খুঁটাৰ ৪০০—ত, তলত দিয়া মতে বস্ত্ৰ বাহানিৰ দৰ আছিল —

চাউল	১১ মোণ ;
তেল	১১০ „
ঘিউ	৫০ „
দাল	১০ „
নিমখ	৫৬ „
চেনী	১১০ „
কাপোৰ	১০ থানএক

(আপুনি কোন সময়ৰ কথা কৈছে :—*voices*) খুঁটাৰ ৪০০ (A.D.400) ৰ কথা কৈছে। তাৰ পিচত—পৃথ্বীৰাজৰ দিনত—(*Laughter.*)

চাউলৰ মোণত—১৯ পাই : তেলৰ—১১৬ ; ঘিউৰ—১১০ আৰু চেনীৰ—দাম ১১০ আছিল।

(আপুনি কি কথা কবলৈ গৈছে ?—*voice* :) আগৰ দিনত কেনে অৱস্থা আছিল আৰু এতিয়া কেনে হৈছে আৰু কি ব্যৱস্থা লব লাগিব তাকে কবলৈ গৈছে।

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (**Deputy Minister**): Has he got *khatas*, i.e., books of accounts since 400 A. D., Sir, ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (**Panery**): তাৰ পিচত ব্ৰিটিছ শাসনৰ তলত—

চাউলৰ দাম মোণে	৪৫০
তেলৰ „ „	২০১
ঘিউৰ „ „	৫০১
নিমখৰ „ „	৫১

(সেই সময়ত তেজপুৰত কিমান দাম আছিল ? :—*voice*)

(আপুনি খাতাৰ পৰা কৈছেনেকি ? :—*voice*)

হয় ; দৰ্কাৰ হলে উলিয়াব পৰা হব ((*laughter*))

তাৰ পিচত ১৯৩৮ চনত চাউলৰ দাম

মোণে	৪৭০
তেলৰ মোণে	২০১
ঘিৰ মোণে	৫০১
দাইলৰ মোণে	৫১
চেনীৰ মোণে	১২১১০
ধুতি খনে	২১

এই কথাটো মোৰ বিশ্বাস আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী সকলে আৰু সকলো সদস্যই জানে যে এটাকাত ২০১৫।১৮ সেৰ কৈ চাউল পোৱা গৈছিল। গতিকে এতিয়া দেখা গৈছে আমি দায়িত্বপূৰ্ণভাৱে এটা ব্যৱস্থা লোৱাৰ সময় হৈ পৰিছে যাতে প্ৰত্যেক বস্ত্ৰৰ লগত দামৰ সামঞ্জস্য থাকে। এতিয়া অসমলৈ যিমান বস্ত্ৰ আহে প্ৰায় বিলাক প্লেনেৰে আহে। বেলত অহা বস্ত্ৰত কৈ প্লেনেৰে অহা বস্ত্ৰৰ কাৰণে মোণে প্ৰায় ২০।২২ টকাকৈ বেচি ভাবা পৰে।

Voice:—অসমত কিমান গোলা আছে?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): আমাৰ সভা সকলে যদি আসামত কিমান গোলা আছে সেইটোকে নাজানে তেনেহলে তেওঁলোকে কেনেকৈ Black marketing Control কৰিব?

You will have to control business men. They must have to know how many Golas those are in Assam and all the situation of the State because we have taken the responsibility. Now it is an absolute necessity.

এতিয়া চাব লাগিব যাতে কেনেকৈ বস্ত্ৰৰ দামৰ সামঞ্জস্য আনিব পাৰি।

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra): उस समय हमारे देशकी जनसंख्या और उत्पादन क्या था।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : उस जमाने में? मैं बताऊंगा आपको। उस जमानेमें हमारे देश की जनसंख्या कम थी। और उत्पादन भी उतना ही था जितना हमारे लिये जरूरी था। किंतु इतना मानी हुई बात है कि उस जमानेमें चीजों का दाम इतना नहीं था, जितना आज है।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): आप असमीया से हिन्दी में आ गये?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : जी हाँ, मुझे हिन्दी में ही बोलना पड़ेगा। क्योंकि हमारे मंत्री महोदय मेरी बात नहीं समझ सके होंगे। इसलिये मैं हिन्दी में ही बोलूंगा।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि धान चावल के साथ साथ दूसरी चीजों का दाम भी घटना चाहिये। किंतु आजकल दैनन्दिन व्यवहारकी चीजों का दाम बढ़ गया है। किंतु आजकल और चीजों का दाम बहुत बढ़ गया है उसके अनुपात में धान चावलका दाम बढ़ा नहीं है। इसके फलस्वरूप हमारे किसान भाइयों की क्रयशक्ति घट गयी है। और हमारे बीच एक असमानता आ गयी है।

हमारे मंत्री महोदयने पिछले जुन-जुलाई महीने में यह कोशिश की थी कि धान चावल का दाम घट जायें ताकि हर आदमी को सस्ते दाममें धान चावल मिले। यह होना भी चाहिये। किंतु धान चावल का ही दाम घटना नहीं चाहिये। धान चावल के साथ साथ दूसरी चीजों का दाम घटना चाहिये।

मैं समझता हूँ कि इस समस्याका समाधान बहुत हदतक हो सकता है। आपलोग जानते हैं कि आजकल हमारे प्रांत में हवाई जहाज से बाहर से माल आते हैं। इसमें भारा बहुत ज्यादा लगता है, हवाई जहाज से माल लाने से हर मनपर कमसे कम १०।१२ रूपया किराया लगता है। इस कारण चीजों का दाम भी बढ़ जाता है। हवाई जहाज से माल लाना बन्द करना चाहिये। रेल से माल लानेपर किराया कम लगेगा और चीजों का दाम भी घट जायेगा। और इस समस्या के सुधारने में बड़ी सहायता होगी। इसके अलावा Inter District समन्वय होना चाहिये। धान चावल के आयात निर्यात पर Inter District प्रतिबन्धन नहीं होना चाहिये।

अब की बार काछाड़ जिले में अच्छा फसल हुवा है, यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है किन्तु उस फसल के लिये बाजार का न होना बड़े खेद की बात है। इसलिये मंत्री महोदय को उन किसान भाइयों की मदद करनी चाहिये। वहां का धान चावल दूसरे जिलोमें भेजनेका प्रबन्ध करना चाहिये ता कि काछाड़ जिले के किसानों को किसी तकलीफ का सामना न करना पड़े।

काछाड़ जिले में फसल बढ़ा है। यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है। इसके लिये हम मंत्री महोदय तथा उनके विभाग को हम बधाई देते हैं। किन्तु दूसरे जिलों में भी इस तरह फसल बढ़ाने का कोशिश करनी चाहिये। हमें देखना चाहिये कि इसके लिये कौन कौन सा उपाय करना चाहिये।

हमें देखना चाहिये कि इस विभाग में कहाँ और क्या त्रुटी है। उसे दूर करने की कोशिश करनी चाहिये।

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : काछाड़में फसल ज्यादा हुआ है, इसके लिये आप मंत्री महोदय को बधाई दे रहे हैं। किन्तु नौगाँव में फसल घट गया है। इसके लिये वे ही जिम्मेवार हैं क्या ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : जी नहीं, इस के लिये मैं उन्हें जिम्मेवार नहीं कह रहा हूँ। नौगाँव में इस साल बारिश नहीं हुई। इसलिये फसल नहीं हुवा। किन्तु बारिश न होनेपर भी मंत्री महोदय उनकी मदद कर सकते हैं। बारिश न हुई

तो वे नहर खोदवाने की व्यवस्था कर दें। Pumps वगैरह की व्यवस्था करें। इस के अलावा वे भगवान से प्रार्थना कर सकते हैं। वे भगवान से प्रार्थना करें कि खेति के समय बारिश हो मंत्री महोदय भगवान के प्रतिनिधि समझे जाते हैं। उन्हें भगवान से प्रार्थना करना चाहिये कि देश में बारिश हो। लोगों का फसल अच्छा हो।

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : मंत्री महोदय भगवान के प्रतिनिधि हैं या जनता के प्रतिनिधि हैं ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : जी हाँ वे जनता के प्रतिनिधि हैं। किन्तु वे भगवान के प्रतिनिधि माने जाते हैं। हम सरस्वती को विद्या की देवी मानते हैं। लक्ष्मी को रूपया पैसा देनेवाली देवी समझते हैं। इसी तरह मंत्री महोदय को भगवान के प्रतिनिधि मानते हैं। उन्हें भगवान से प्रार्थना करनी चाहिये, और खुद भी नहर, Pumps और अच्छे बीज देकर लोगों की मदद करनी चाहिये।

मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज आसाम की हालत बहुत बुरी है। इसे सुधारने के लिये सरकार को कोशिश करनी चाहिये। सरकारी कर्मचारियों का वेतन बढ़ा देना चाहिये ताकि उनमें क्रयशक्ति हो। वे अपनी जरूरत की चीजें खरीदने समर्थ हो। और साथ साथ हमारे किसान भाइयों की भी हालत सुधरे उनका पैदा किया हुआ धान चावल और दूसरी चीजों के लिये उन्हें उचित मूल्य मिले।

आशा है सरकार मेरे इन सुझावों की ओर विशेष रूपसे ध्यान दें और उन्हें ग्रहण करें।

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Supply) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, although this motion reached me rather late, I readily agreed to it because it would afford us an opportunity to discuss the situation in respect of the prices of rice and paddy in the Cachar district. Sir, at the outset I have to say that it is not correct that there has been an abnormal fall in the prices of agricultural produce, and also I am obliged to observe that the statement of my learned Friend, Shri Nama-sudra, which is of a statistical nature, is not borne out by facts. Comparative study of the prices of rice and paddy last year and this year will go to show that the contention of my learned Friend is not correct. In October and November 1957 the market prices of Sali rice were reported to vary from Rs.28-8-0 to Rs.25-8-0 per maund, and the price of Sali paddy from Rs.12-8-0 to Rs.13 per maund. These prices are in no way to be regarded as abnormally low. During the corresponding month of the last year, the prices of Sali rice varied from Rs.20 to Rs.24-4-0 per maund. Perhaps my Friend is referring to or thinking about prices of Ahu paddy and rice. Recent reports show that the market price of Ahu paddy now varies from Rs.7-8-0 to Rs.8-4-0 per maund, and the market prices of Ahu rice from Rs.13 to Rs.18 per maund according to local circumstances.

It may be mentioned that there are certain areas in the interior where because of cost of transport the prices generally remain low. There had been a recession in prices, as movement of Ahu paddy and rice from Cachar to other districts was not quick for sometime owing to non-availability of sufficient wagons. It may be re-called that the type of wagons which are used on the hill section is different from those normally used on the plains line and the number of this type of wagons is not very great. The Railway authorities have been specially requested to make sufficient number of wagons available so that Aus rice and paddy can move freely from Cachar to other districts of Assam Valley where prices are high. It is now understood that there has been definite improvement in the supply position of wagons and this will certainly raise the market prices of Aus rice and paddy in areas where prices have gone down.

Shri JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): But the wagons will never come.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Supply): Whatever that may be, Sir, it may be recalled that during the last session of the Assembly Shri Namasudra criticised Government for abnormally high prices of rice in Cachar. It was not very long ago, it was on 29th June 1957—(now, July, August, September and October, only four months intervening.) Let us recall what our Friend said on that occasion. These are the words he uttered:—

“কাছাড়ের কৃষকেরা কাছাড়ের ধান কিনিবার জন্য হাজার বার নিবেদন জানিয়েছিল আমিও এই বিষয়ে সরকারকে বারবার দাবী জানিয়েছিলাম। কিন্তু সরকার এইবিষয়ে সামান্য মনোযোগও দিলেন না। মিল মালিকেরা কিনে নিয়ে গেল। যখন চাউলের দাম ২২ টাকা মন ছিল তখনই সরকার ধান কিনিয়া রাখিতে পারিতেন। কিন্তু সরকারকে বার বার জানান স্বত্বেও সরকার কোন জবাব দেন নাই। কাছাড় হইতে বাহিরে ধান চাউল বন্ধ করার এবং জেলার খাদ্য সংকটে আশু হস্তক্ষেপের জন্য কাছাড় চা শ্রমিক ইউনিয়নের সভাপতি শ্রীচৌবে সাপ্লাই মিনিষ্টারের নিকটও তার পাঠাইয়াছিলেন।”

At that time he was pleading for stoppage of export of rice and paddy from Cachar and complaining of unusually high prices. Sir, if the Government are to follow scrupulously the advice given by our Friend, Shri Namasudra, Government will find itself, in not distant future, in the plight of the ‘father, the son and the ass’ in Aesop’s fable which Government can ill afford to do. If there is any surplus in any district it is the common principle that the surplus quantities should move outside the district so that the prices may not

fall. It is really creditable on the part of Government that the prices which according to Shri Namasudra went up had been brought down to a reasonable level.

Now, Sir, in order that the cultivators who have got surplus stocks may not be affected, Government have decided to purchase Aus paddy in Cachar at a reasonable price fixed, i.e., Rs.9 per maund with bags, and Rs.8-4-0 per maund without bags, and store it in Government godowns. Necessary instructions have already been issued to the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar for starting the work immediately. Besides, movement of rice and paddy which has already been programmed will be despatched. Thus there is no cause for any alarm. I can assure my Friend that arrangements have been made to have Government godowns in every subdivision so that wherever there is surplus paddy the same may be procured and stored in Government godowns for movement to other deficit areas so as to assist the deficit pockets in the same area.

Whatever may be the view of the mover, it is not possible to eliminate normal trade channel in the present circumstances. If the suggestions put forward by the hon. Member are carried out trade channel will be completely upset. Sir, it is known to everyone that there is no complete control now and in the absence of complete control, many suggestions put forward by my learned Friend cannot be carried out. But I can assure him that those suggestions of his which are feasible and practicable will certainly be attended to.

If the trade channel functions properly and there is regular movement of rice and paddy from surplus areas to deficit areas prices cannot be very low. The fact that prices are not yet low is proved by the existence of 25 Fair Price shops uptill now in Karimganj Subdivision.

Sir, the suggestions which have been put forward by my Friend, Shri Patwari, are welcome and I have also appreciated an interesting account as to how the economy of India from a long time past has changed to this present state. Not very long ago, if I remember aright, only 20 years back, perhaps, rice was selling in Manipur at annas 14 per maund, and there was no cost of transport added here. Sir, as regards the price of other commodities, it is well-known, there is the inflationary tendency in India owing to a large amount of money being injected into the country for these development projects in the Second Five-Year Plan, and proportionately, consumers' goods

are not available. So all round rise of price is in evidence and, if I may say so, from a perusal of world conditions to-day, it is evident that everywhere prices are higher than they used to be immediately after the last Great War. I submit, Sir, necessary arrangements are being made for procuring 20 lakhs maunds of paddy out of the next winter crop so that the Government will have in their hands stock to put where there is great necessity as also to render help to those cultivators who have got surplus paddy in their hands. I hope the Government of India will give us due permission for this arrangement.

**Resolution *re*: Widespread drought in the State
and its consequent effect**

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now take into consideration the acute situation caused by widespread drought in the State and its consequent effect on the production of food-grains.

Sir, I believe the hon. Members of the House are fully aware that we are in the midst of an acute drought condition in our State, particularly, in the districts of Nowgong and Kamrup and in parts of the districts of Goalpara and Darrang, and in consequence of this widespread drought, the most important crop, namely, winter paddy, is not expected to prove successful, the result of which is the inevitable depletion of the rice stock of our State which may lead to famine conditions in some areas. As far as I can see, our Government are not as alive to the situation as it is expected of them. It can be very well argued that such a condition of drought is the work of nature, and the Government have no control over the idiosyncrasies of Nature. It can certainly be argued like that. But on a careful consideration of the whole matter, it will appear that weather condition is not alone responsible for this drought condition prevailing in the country to-day. We had several droughts in the past, and the droughts occur in our State intermittently. It may be quite well-known to the Members of the House, that if this drought condition is not properly tackled in time, it may assume a proportion more serious and damaging than even the recurrent floods inasmuch as floods confine themselves to particular places or localities mostly low-lying areas, and can be controlled by human ingenuity at comparatively lesser cost and with greater efficiency, while drought conditions which usually prevail in a much larger scale

are beyond the control of our growers and cultivators. The result of drought is vastly damaging not only to the crops but also to the live-stock which brings in its trails the resultant famine on a still wider scale. In my recent tours as a member of the Estimates Committee I had the opportunity of visiting several districts, and from my experience I can state without any hesitation in my mind that the crops, particularly, the winter crops, this year will not prove very successful and a famine condition may prevail in most of the drought areas. Now the question is: why this drought has come? As I have already mentioned, it comes intermittently. But it can also be dealt with by human ingenuity because modern science has developed to such an extent that it is now no longer necessary to be entirely dependent on Nature and it can be circumvented by methods, made available to us by the modern science. In the districts of Nowgong and Kamrup, as far as I had been able to judge owing to the failure of the Government policy, or rather it will be proper to say, lack of policy at all, this drought condition has been further accentuated and aggravated. For example, to prevent floods Government have constructed a number of embankments on the banks of big rivers such as the Brahmaputra and others. As a result of these embankments, water has been completely shut out from coming to the paddy fields. No provisions have been made for allowing water to enter the fields for agricultural purposes. We have not seen any sluice gates in either of the districts of Kamrup and Nowgong. As a result, the peasantry have been made to suffer in two ways. First, these embankments prevent the flood waters which carry large quantity of silts and fertilize the fields, from entering the fields. This deprives the soil of moisture and fertility and, as a result, whatever crop they grow requires additional water which has to be brought in at additional cost and labour in all those regions where rains fail or the usual rainfall is poor, and even then the yield becomes very poor due to loss of fertility. Then again, little provision has been made to drain out rain water through these embankments, the inevitable result of which is the flooding of the fields by rain water which sometimes stays on for weeks together. Now these embankments are undertaken by the Embankment and Drainage Department of the Government. It appears to me that these embankments are made without any reference to the Department of Agriculture of the Government which can be in a position to advise as to whether a sluice gate in an embankment will be necessary to allow water to go out or come in for agricultural purpose in a certain place. No provision has been also made anywhere, particularly, in the

Nowgong District for providing tanks for reservation of water for use in the fields during droughts. This apparently should be the function of the Agriculture Department to see whether the peasants have sufficient stock of water for use when required in their fields. But unfortunately there appears to be no provision to look to this aspect of the matter, which speaks a lot about the Agricultural Policy of the Government. Further, our Government's policy of maintaining reserved forests which are Nature's rain-bearers is defective. Rather, it would be more correct to say, our Government have no definite policy regarding the conservation of forests. Deforestation has been going on wantonly, there is nobody to check it. It is very difficult to say whether failure of the Kaki project in Nowgong is not due to this wanton deforestation of the area. History tells us, this ruthless deforestation policy of the then ruling class is at the root of the extinction of rich civilizations of Syria and Babylon. Here in this country also, we are facing with arid conditions in certain parts. Therefore our Forest and Agriculture Departments and the Department of Embankment and Drainage should co-ordinate their activities in such a manner so that the forest wealth of our country, wherever they are in existence are carefully preserved, and where there is none, our people should be encouraged to grow them. In the countries where rainfall is very poor they have with the aid of modern science built up sufficient reservoirs of waters to irrigate the cultivable lands. In Assam where the average rainfall is never below 40 to 50 inches, it is quite possible to conserve the rain water so that the drought condition can be successfully fought. In Palestine water is collected from dew-drops by allowing the dew to condense on smooth stone slabs placed at a slant. The condensed dew-drops which trickle down the stone slabs are collected in basins placed at the feet of the slabs. In Assam where we have plenty of rainfall such laborious process need not be undertaken. It will be enough if irrigation facilities are extended to drought areas. It is necessary that our peasantry be initiated to all forms of irrigation. They should be encouraged to maintain tanks and reservoirs of water within the agricultural lands. Deep tube wells may be provided wherever possible in drought areas. We should also try to introduce some new methods of cultivation, so that our people even in arid areas may be induced to grow some suitable varieties of food crops. Unless things are done in a planned and scientific manner Assam shall never become self-sufficient in food. In order to increase food production it is necessary to bring more land under the plough. But we must also see that we do not allow any further deforestation. On the contrary we should have more trees which by holding the

moisture in the atmosphere act as Nature's rain-makers. The time has come when the Government should take ardent measures to plant belts of forests around arid areas which will not only act as wind screens by shutting out the dry wind but shall also help in maintaining the optimum humidity. Belts of trees should also be planted on the bank of the rivers and in areas where the rate of soil erosion is very high. We may reclaim lands by deforestation. Only when there are enough of forests in the neighbourhood or when the necessity is absolutely imperative. But even then rich forests should not be touched. We should try to reclaim other waste lands and for this purpose our mode of agriculture may be reorganised. I hope the Government will pay attention to these problems with more seriousness. Sir, our cultivators are being faced with problems that have become perennial, so I think, the time has come to review the whole pattern of our agriculture. Sir, in the matter of agriculture, our peasantry are suffering all the year round from either drought or flood. Government should therefore seriously consider whether the time has come for us to take up new methods of cultivation and whether cultivation of cereals other than the wet paddy can be successfully introduced in our State. I am of opinion that unless we change our pattern of Agriculture, we shall never be out of the woods. It is essential that an attempt is made to change the agricultural habits of our people to encourage them to grow crops that require lesser quantity of water, and to grow several crops in rotation. Greater emphasis should be laid on Rabi crops. This necessarily involves a change in our food habits. I believe our lasting solution lies in this direction. We must adjust our food habits to the needs of time and our Agriculture shall have to adjust accordingly.

Further, Sir, in this age of science it is possible to increase the moisture content of the soil by use of chemicals. But, thanks, to our Department of Agriculture, we have not been able to initiate the peasantry to the use of fertilisers, let alone the use of chemicals for augmenting the moisture content of the soil. Our yield per unit is falling due to the gradual depletion of the fertility of the soil. We should be alive to the situation and should read the writing on the wall. Science should be wedded to Agriculture. I am sure, Sir, that by introducing new methods of science in cultivation, we shall not only be able to make ourselves self-sufficient, but may produce enough food to help our sister States.

Then again, Sir, our Government do not appear to have done anything to off-set the effect of this widespread drought, *viz.*, famine. They have not built up a good stock of food-grains as yet. The price of rice in the valley is already high. Sir, we find that rice is selling here from Rs.27 to Rs.29 per maund, whereas in Cachar District it is sold between Rs.8 to Rs.9-4-0 during the harvest season, and it is for the Government to put a stop to this disparity between the two valleys. In Cachar District no sooner has the agricultural produce come to the markets than the merchants purchase everything at the prevailing market price which is forced below by the company of merchants in order to corner the entire marketable surplus, so that they might dictate the price to the poor consumers subsequently. So Government should restrict this particular move of the merchants. We are thankful to the Finance Minister when he told the House that Government have already taken a scheme to purchase a respectable quantity of rice and to store it either on the State or the Central account to be released as occasion so demands. I think the Aus crop cannot be stored for a long time, so I believe some other arrangement will have to be made. Government may do well to purchase the surplus Sali paddy from the Cachar District and store it. We have found that the Government have not been able to link and balance the two valleys and the result is that while we are starving here, in Cachar District they are having a fall in price of paddy. Therefore, Government should try to balance the price structure of food-grains between the two valleys. We hope Government should be alert to the situation and see that proper and suitable measures as suggested are taken to prevent drought condition, and should also procure enough paddy so as to avert famine.

With these few words, Sir, I close. I hope Government will also see their way to revise the present policy with regard to Agriculture and initiate better methods so that we may have the maximum production of food-crops in our State.

Mr. SPEAKER: Resolution moved: "This Assembly do now take into consideration the acute situation caused by widespread drought in the State and its consequent effect on the production of food-grain".

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really grateful to my Friend, Mr. Borthakur, for having brought to the House this important resolution. He has brought this resolution at a very opportune moment.

By this resolution a warning has been given to the Government of the condition which is prevailing in our State. We have seen in newspapers that in our country drought has been prevailing in seven States although the name of Assam is not there. Sir, the condition in Assam as we have seen may be worse than in some other States. I had the occasion of moving to different districts and personally see the condition of paddy in most of the districts. Except in Lakhimpur division and Sibsagar district the paddy in other districts has been damaged by drought. Even in Nowgong I have seen that for want of water people have not been able to ret and wash the jute. Now it is high time that Government should adopt certain measures in the current year and also take up some measures for the future so that the people of our State may not starve. Last year, Sir, we saw that although our State was a deficit one, Government's figures showed our State as surplus. I request the Government to make careful survey and to see that actual state of affairs is enquired into. If our State is really deficit, Government should procure paddy not only from our own State but from other States also, if necessary, and to take up measures to produce both Rabi and Boro crops, if possible, otherwise we will be in a very critical position and there may be starvation in our State. Sir, every year we have found that our State is suffering either from drought or floods. Now we should take up measures to fight this drought. We have already taken up measures to fight floods although it has not become very successful and in case of drought also we should see what measures can be taken up. Sir, these are the days of science and therefore in these days Government should take up scientific measures that even in the cases of droughts crops can be grown, otherwise, Sir, if every year there is drought and flood, not to speak of surplus food but our State will never be self-sufficient in food. So it is now high time for the Government to adopt sufficient measures for this year as well as for the future so that there may not be any scarcity of food in our State. Government should take scientific method of cultivation so that our State may be a surplus one in the matter of foodgrains.

Shri NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that almost all parts of Assam are suffering from a drought condition, more specially the districts of Nowgong, Kamrup, Darrang and Goalpara. I can speak of the district of Nowgong. Sir, Nowgong is known, specially Hojai in Nowgong, is called the granary of Assam. Now that has gone. Now you will find this year that in the district of Nowgong there is not sufficient paddy for the people to live on.

Sir, Nowgong district is divided into three parts. One part is suitable for growing paddy, one for jute and the for other tea. Now whatever jute they grew there was not sufficient water to peel and wash them. So also in the paddy growing areas there was not sufficient water for paddy to grow. In the northern side of the Nowgong district the Bund is responsible for this state of things. This embankment was raised without any sluice gate or without any inlet or outlet for water to come and go and consequently, owing to this Bund, jute could not be grown and so also paddy. That is the state of affairs in Nowgong district. In the western side people were dependent upon rain water. Now this year as there was not sufficient rain, there was no water to grow paddy. My Friend Shri Borthakur, has said that on account of the deforestation there has been insufficient rain; I think it is correct. In the northern district most of the paddy fields remained dry and nothing could be had from that side.

Sir, if the Government does not come to the help of peasants with sufficient funds and also with sufficient measures for the protection of the cultivators of the Nowgong district and other districts, a time will come when people will be disappointed and they will die of starvation. So, Sir, it is desired that in order to protect the people of Assam sufficient measures should be adopted so that people may grow paddy and other crops.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding): মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বৰঠাকুৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই আজি অতি লাগতিয়াল প্ৰস্তাৱটো ডাঙি ধৰা বাবে তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছোঁ। এই বছৰ অনাবৃষ্টিৰ ফলত অসমত যি ভীষণ অৱস্থা হৈছে তাৰ দ্বাৰা দুৰ্ভিক্ষ হোৱাৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ আশংকা আছে। এতিয়া মই ধুবুৰি গৈ জিলাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলক যে কি অৱস্থাত দেখিমগৈ সেইটো ভাবি চিন্তিত হৈ পৰিছোঁ।

এইটো ঠিক যে নগাঁওত অনাবৃষ্টিৰ ফলত আৰু অপৰিকল্পিত বান্ধৰ কাৰণে যি অৱস্থাত পৰিছে সেইটো বৰ্ণনা কৰিব নোৱাৰি। নগাঁৱলৈ গলে দেখিব লাখ লাখ মোণ পাট নষ্ট হৈ গৈছে। যিখন নগাঁও Jute Cultivationৰ বাবে বিখ্যাত তাত লাখ লাখ মোণ মৰাপাটৰ পোলা গোবাব নোৱাৰাৰ বাবে বাস্তাৱ দাঁতিতে শুকাই গৈছে। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা কেৱল গাঁৱলীয়া মানুহৰহে অৰ্থনৈতিক অৱস্থা দুৰ্বল গৈছে এনে নহয় ই দেশৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক অৱস্থাও দুৰ্বল কৰিছে। এতিয়া মানুহে বাওধান, তিল, সব্ৰিয়হ খেতি কৰিবৰ দিহা কৰিছে। এই সময়ত চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়টোৰ প্ৰতি মন দি কঠিয়া আদি দি সহায় নকৰিলে সেই খেতিও হৈ নুঠিব। গাঁৱলীয়া বাইজক বন্ধা কৰিবৰ এতিয়াও বাস্তাৱ আছে। তেওঁলোকক সকলো বকমৰ খেতি কৰাত সহায় কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে ভীষণ হাহাকাৰ অৱস্থাই দেখা দিব। নগাঁৱৰ খেতিয়কৰ বৰো খেতি কৰাৰ অভ্যাস আছে। বৰো খেতিৰপৰা বহুত ধান নগাঁৱৰ মানুহে পায়। কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় নগাঁৱৰ বৰো খেতিৰ বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে যিমান দৰ্কাৰ সেই হিচাবে মন দিয়া নাই। যি পৰিমাণে সাহায্য বৰো খেতিৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে দিব লাগিছিল সেই পৰিমাণৰ সাহায্য দিয়া হোৱা নাই। বৰো খেতিৰ উপযুক্ত যিবিলাক মাটি চৰ্কাৰী হৈ এনেয়ে পৰি আছে বা Forest Reserve ৰ ভিতৰত আছে সেই বিলাক মাটি চৰকাৰে মানুহক এতিয়ালৈকে দিয়া

নাই। এইবোৰৰ ব্যৱস্থা সোনকালে নকৰিলে নিশ্চয় দুৰ্ভিক্ষই দেখা দিব। গতিকে বৰগাকুৰ ডাঙৰীয়াৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ লগতে ময়ো কওঁ যে চৰকাৰে প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ গুৰুত্ব বুজি যেন সেই অনুযায়ী ব্যৱস্থা কৰে।

এতিয়া কেন্দ্ৰীয় গড়কাপ্তানী বিভাগ নাইবা অন্যান্য অভূহাত দেখুৱায়, যেনে, এই আঁচনিত টকা নাই, এই আঁচনিত কেন্দ্ৰীয় অনুমতি লোৱা হোৱা নাই বা এই আঁচনি আইনমতে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব নোৱাৰি, তেনেহলে, বাইজৰ অৱস্থা কুলাই পাচিয়ে নধৰা হব। যি কোনো ব্যৱস্থা কৰি হলেও কিছু শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিবৰ এতিয়াও সময় আছে। এনেবোৰ বিষয়ত গতানুগতিক পদ্ধতিলৈ নগৈ বিশেষ পৰিস্থিতি হিচাবে কাম কৰিব লাগে। এনে পৰিস্থিতিত যদি কৃষি-মন্ত্ৰী আৰু বন-মন্ত্ৰীয়ে আন কথাৰ অভূহাত দেখুৱাই পলম কৰিব খোজে তেনেহলে মানুহ খাবলৈ নেপায় মৰিব। আজি যদি সদস্য সকল নগাঁও জিলালৈ যায় তাত মানুহৰ দুবৰস্থা দেখি চকুপানী টুকিব লাগিব। সেই কাৰণে ইয়াৰ যথোচিত ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰৰ চোকা দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলোঁ।

***Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank the hon. mover of this Motion for bringing to the notice of the House about the acute food situation due to widespread drought in the State and its consequent effect on the production of foodgrain.

Previous speakers have already stated about this acute situation caused by widespread drought in the plains areas. But I think, Sir, I should also speak something about it as far as hill areas are concerned. Mr. Borthakur, the mover of this Motion, Mr. Sarma and Mr. Das, had been to Garo Hills as members of the Estimate Committee. They entered into certain villages of Garo Hills and found what was the food production after the harvest during this year. I had the occasion to speak on the food situation in the hills districts during the last session of the Assembly. Due to widespread drought in the hill areas our jhum crop was very unsuccessful. However, we thought that we would do something for the winter crop, because in the plains portion of our hills areas we have Sali paddy cultivation. But as we could not have sufficient rain, our Sali paddy cultivation also failed. In fact, the food situation in the near future in our side will be worse than what it was before, as last year. We could to some extent produce some food as in the previous year. But this year both jhum and winter paddy cultivations have failed and as such there will be more acute food situation in the hill areas also. On two occasions I think I brought to the notice of the House that no agricultural scheme for the hill people has yet been taken up by the Government. The schemes for the plains areas in respect of agriculture do not apply in the hill areas and so different agricultural programme in the hill areas is necessary. The condition in the

hill areas is quite different from that in the plains areas where there are schemes for embankment and drainage and so forth. Even by having embankment and drainage schemes in hill areas we cannot make any progress in the field of food production. So, I say, nothing has been done in our hill areas. Our jhum cultivation is deteriorating year by year because the pressure for land has become more and more due to increase of population. I have come to learn that 80 per cent of the Community Development activities are directed for improvement of agricultural work. But direction cannot help. So, the Government of Assam could have a thorough survey as to what are the agricultural possibilities in the hills areas, as to what schemes can be introduced profitably and improve the economy in the hill areas. Otherwise this food problem, either due to drought or flood, will continue to remain so, rather it will become worse and worse. I would therefore make an appeal that the Government should be alive to this problem, a very vital problem. Food is the most important of all our requirements.

My Friend, Mr. Barthakur, spoke about deforestation in certain areas which probably causes drought. Deforestation in our hill areas is more extensive. We cannot help it because we do not have any other method of cultivation except jhum cultivation. Government have been asked on the floor of this House to introduce some other method of cultivation so that there can be less deforestation in the hill areas. But, Sir, nothing has been done up till now, and as such deforestation in the hills areas will have to be continued—in the absence of any alternative method of cultivation. I would, therefore, make an appeal that after having realised the peculiar condition prevailing in the hill areas the Government of Assam may be so pleased as to organise or to establish a land and agricultural development corporation and this corporation should be given adequate funds and also technical personnel. Through this technical personnel technical possibilities in the hill areas will be examined and also extensive reclamation of land in between the hills should be taken up. They will also see if other schemes of agriculture can be taken up in the hill areas so that the food production can be increased and the jhum cultivation can be profitably replaced. It can be done both by departmental agency or by the people themselves. So, my appeal is that while we are all trying to solve this food problem which is due to widespread drought or for any other reason, we should not forget the prevailing situation in the hill areas and I believe the authority here will take into consideration this proposal of establishing a unit of agricultural development corporation for the benefit of the hill people.

With these words, Sir, I thank the hon. Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject and I believe that my suggestion placed just now before the House will receive due and sympathetic consideration by the Government and the House.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (**Minister, Agriculture**): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to my Friend, Mr. Borthakur, for bringing this resolution before the House. It is true that certain areas of the State are suffering from a drought weather condition. Reports received so far from various districts show that there had been drought in major parts of the district of Nowgong and in some parts of Goalpara, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District and in some parts of Khasi and Jaintia Hills district. Continuous drought weather condition had been prevailing from the month of March till about August and as a result the standing crops of these areas were affected and the sowing of *Ahu*, *Bao jute* and growing of raining season vegetable was much delayed. Besides transplanting of *Sali* paddy was also much delayed due to want of rain.....

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (**Palashbari**): On a point of information, Sir, from whom this information has been received?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: From the district officers, both of Revenue and Agriculture Departments.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: May I know whether any information was received from the Kamrup district? If not, whether the Minister will be prepared to enquire?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: I will certainly enquire about the Kamrup district, but no such report of drought was received by the Agriculture Department. Some distress was reported to the Revenue Department about which I shall speak later on.

Now, Sir, this is not the case of Assam alone. Bihar has been very badly affected by drought and serious scarcity is prevailing there and in parts of Orissa.....

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [**Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)**]: We are concerned with Assam and not Bihar.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: Have patience please. I did not intervene when the hon. Members were speaking. Some of my Friends while discussing this matter

tried to lay blame on the Revenue Department of Assam for reclamation of certain areas including Kaki. Then some of my Friends were critical of the Embankment and Drainage Department for their Bunds and a certain amount of blame was put on this Department for their work, as if these two Department's projects are responsible for the drought. Therefore, I have to refer that this phenomenon is not confined to some parts of Assam alone. The drought is prevailing in some other parts of India also and that too at the same time. As I have already stated, Bihar has been seriously affected by drought ; also parts of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have been affected by it.

This is a natural calamity but I do not brush aside the objections made by my Friends that due to deforestation in some areas the condition of whether might have been affected, because I am not an expert. As such when my Friend, Shri Nilmoney Borthakur, suggests that due to deforestation particularly in Kaki weather condition had been affected very much I have nothing to criticise. I accept his suggestion gratefully and I can assure him that Government will look into this matter.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : I did not say that deforestation is the only factor ; it is one of the factors.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : Yes, I understand that. But so far as this as a factor is concerned, I can assure the hon. Member that Government will keep his suggestions in mind while making schemes in future for reclamation of land for distribution to the landless people.

Then, Sir, some of my Friends referred to the part played by the Embankment and Drainage Department. They have said that due to the construction of Bunds, our agriculture had suffered very much and that it is one of the causes of drought. I do not reject the contention straightaway. There may be same force in the argument but I would like to remind the hon. Members of the condition prevailing in this House ever since 1952 and onward. If we look to the proceedings of the Assembly, we shall find that in every Session there were demands from all quarters for construction of Bunds to save the people from floods because floods were a regular feature

at that time. We all used to say that construction of Bunds here and there was the panacea of the said problems. Every action has got its reaction and now possibly when some reaction has appeared, my Friends have started vehement criticisms against the Embankment and Drainage Department for the construction of these Bunds. It may be true that some amount of disorder has been caused by these Bunds and I agree that Government should consider the whole matter and, if necessary, remedy the mistakes, if there be any. I can assure the hon. Members that this aspect of the matter has already been receiving the attention of the Government. My Friend, Mr. Sarma, has already said that so far as Nowgong is concerned, the Minister for Embankment and Drainage Department had assured him to consider the whole matter and to see what adjustments could be made. I can assure my Friends that the matter will be considered by my Hon'ble Colleague, the Minister-in-charge of Embankment and Drainage and also by the Government.

Now, Sir, it had been suggested in the House that there was not much co-ordination between the Agriculture Department and the Embankment and Drainage Department in the construction of these Bunds. But I should like to remind my Friends that they themselves at the beginning or end of the last Session had passed a resolution for formation of a Board called the Embankment and Drainage Advisory Board. The Agriculture Minister is a member of that Board. Therefore, whatever projects are taken by the Embankment and Drainage Department through the said Board the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture Department is expected to be consulted. But I agree that there had not been the same amount of co-ordination between the Officers at the lower level as we would like to. Therefore, Government have this year decided to set up certain boards both in the districts as well as in the subdivisions, at the subdivisional and headquarters level. For this purpose actually boards have been formed to co-ordinate the activities in this respect. At the subdivisional level Subdivisional Agriculture Officer, the Subdivisional Officer, Embankment and Drainage, Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department and the Subdivisional Officer (Magistrate) from the Revenue side are the Members of the Board. Similarly, at the district level, the District Agriculture Officer, the Deputy Commissioner and the Officer representing the Embankment and Drainage and Public Works Departments are the Members. Similarly, at the State level, we have formed a Committee representing both the Departments to look into these difficulties. Therefore, Sir, I hope these difficulties will be removed to a great extent.

Now, coming to the problem of Nowgong, my Friends have said that what Government have done was not sufficient. It may be, Sir. But I would like to give an idea of what has been done since the drought had set in. As soon as the news came, Government decided to allow use of power pumps in Nowgong free to those who were poor. At that time, the Government of Assam had only 200 power pumps at their disposal. Out of those 200 power pumps, in one lot 64 were sent to Nowgong during the *Ahu* season and another 94 pumping sets were sent during *Sali* season. Now if we are to allow use of all these pumps free, the financial implication would be to the tune of two lakhs of rupees for Nowgong alone. I would now state what more Government have done in this respect. In the Nowgong district, in the current year, gratuitous relief to the tune of Rs.3,150 has been granted ; agricultural loan in one lot Rs.5,400 and in another lot Rs.5,000 has been sanctioned ; distress loans—as seed loan, one lakh of rupees in one instalment and Rs.30,000 in another have been sanctioned. Then, Sir, for test relief work in the distressed areas Rs.41,980 in one instalment and Rs.50,000 in another instalment were sanctioned. Besides these, as I have already said, two lakhs of rupees will be necessary for allowing the use of the power pumps free. Similarly, Sir, my honourable Friend, Shri Sangma, was complaining that in the Garo Hills district Government have not been generous. I am going to give facts and figures about the Hill districts. I am sorry, Sir, Shri Sangma is not present in the House to hear me. Any way, I am giving the figures so far as the Hill Districts are concerned :—

Test Relief—

	Rs.	a.	p.
United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District	1,66,000	0	0
Mizo District 	3,500	0	0
United Mikir and North Cachar Hills...	41,000	0	0
Naga Hills 	1,60,000	0	0

<i>Gratuitous Relief—</i>				Rs.	a.	p.
United Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...			664	0	0
Garro Hills	...	...	...	55,071	8	0
Mizo district	...	...	...	2,570	0	0
Mikir Hills	...	...	...	3,250	0	0
North Cachar Hills	...	...	...	4,735	0	0
<i>Agricultural Loan—</i>						
Mikir Hills	...	...	...	54,000	0	0
Garro Hills	...	...	...	1,00,000	0	0

For United Khasi and Jaintia Hills a proposal to grant Rs.4,50,000 as agricultural loan is awaiting consideration before the Government.

Apart from this Government have supplied essential food-stuffs at subsidised rates, to the people of some of the Hills as follows:

<i>Rice—</i>				Rs.	a.	p.
Mizo district for Lungleh subdivision	...			34,200	0	0
United Mikir and North Cachar Hills	...			68,000	0	0

Other essential commodities like Salt, Kerosene and Sugar, etc.

				Rs.	a.	p.
Garro Hills	...	...	1,50,000	0	0	(also including rice).
Mizo District (For Lungleh)	...	...	3,00,000	0	0	

Sir, now my honourable Friends from other Subdivisions may find fault with me that they have not been given anything,

I would like to give the figures for these subdivisions which are as follows:—

		Gratui- tous Re- lief	Agricul- ture Loan	Distress Loan	Rehabili- tation Loan	Test re- lief
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
North Lakhimpur ..	..	27,144	10,000	3,250	19,250	20,000
Dibrugarh ..	..	91,290	50,000	46,000	2,85,750	2,500
Tezpur ..	..	37,800	21,600	Nil	50,000	Nil.
Mangaldoi ..	..	5,100	30,000	Nil	Nil.	Nil
Dhubri ..	..	5,000	25,000	16,000	2,250	10,000
				20,000 (Cattle loan Particular- ly for drou- ght affected areas).		
Goalpara ..	..	9,600	20,000	Nil	55,000	Nil
Kokrajhar ..	..	4,500	5,000	13,000	Nil.	Nil
Silchar ..	..	4,000	10,000	Nil	Nil.	Nil
Karimganj ..	..	2,500	10,000	Nil	Nil.	Nil
Hailakandi ..	..	500	10,000	Nil.		Nil

(the crop position being good in Cachar, this was not considered for Distress loan, etc.)

Barpeta	3,214	Nil	10,000		Nil
------------	----	-------	-----	--------	--	-----

My honourable Friend, Shri Das, spoke about Gauhati. For Gauhati the figures are—

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Gauhati ..	..	21,300	66,200	26,200	36,564	25,000
Jorhat ..	..	14,200	20,000	25,500	4,000	10,000
Sibsagar ..	..	2,500	20,000	Nil	Nil.	Nil
Golaghat ..	..	Nil	20,000	Nil	Nil.	13,000

So all these figures have come near about Rs.27 lakhs.

In order to clarify the matter I would like to say that out of the money allotted to Nowgong seeds worth Rs.1 lakh of rupees were purchased and distributed to the drought affected people. Similarly the cattle loan of Rs.5,400 and the test relief amounting to nearly Rs. 92,000 was confined to drought affected people of Nowgong. Out of the money allotted to Goalpara a sum of Rs.20,000 was specifically sanctioned for cattle loan to be distributed in the drought affected areas of Dhubri by the Revenue Department.

As soon as Government received information about drought in different areas of Nowgong, Government agreed to allow use of power pumps in those areas free of charge to people who would be unable to pay the charges. Government decided to consider the cases of other areas on merit if demand would come. There were no demands for Goalpara to allow the use of the power pumps free till a few days back. And as soon as the demand came, Government had allowed the same privilege to the people of the district of Goalpara.

We had also distributed Pesticides in the following Sub-divisions free. I give the names and the amounts.—

					Rs.
Dhubri	...	...	...	...	1,000
Mangaldoi	...	...	...	...	1,000
Goalpara	...	...	...	...	1,000
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	1,000
Golaghat	...	...	...	...	1,000
Jowai ...	...	...	...	...	500
Shillong	...	...	...	...	300

Apart from the money I have already mentioned, this year so far we have sanctioned agricultural loan for land implement and large scale farming to the tune of Rs.1,37,700 in the current year to the people of the State. Sir, I would like to place these figures for the consideration of the honourable Members of this House. I do not like to say that the relief

given to the people is more than sufficient. It may not be sufficient in comparison with the distress of the people. But the honourable Members of this House will at the same time kindly consider the financial resources of this Government. The resources of the Government are such that it cannot possibly give more relief than what the Government have given so far. I feel, the feasibility of giving more money is beyond the capacity of the Government.

My honourable Friends have given certain suggestions. One of the suggestions is this that we should allow all available cultivable land in the State in Forest reserves to be used for the purpose of Boro cultivation on a war-footing. I may tell the honourable Member Shri Sarma that Government have already issued order through the Forest Department to the D. F. O. to allow lands within Forest reserves to be used for Boro paddy cultivation wherever available. 970 maunds of Boro Paddy seeds are being distributed in Nowgong District.

But these are all short term steps. As I have said, this problem will have to be tackled by long-phased programme. We had no such droughts in the past to my knowledge except in the last two years. I would like to inform the honourable Members of this House that the Embankment and Drainage Department is considering the possibility of a minor irrigation programme for irrigation of those parts of Nowgong which are affected by drought and Survey is going on. But for irrigation also we should have to take a long-term programme. But the hon. Members know the fact of long-phased Major Irrigation programme in the whole of Assam. We tried to include some of the Major Irrigation Schemes like Kopili and Barak in the 1st and 2nd Five Year Plans. But unfortunately we could not get them included either in the First Five Year Plan or in the Second Five Year Plan. We still hope that the Government of India would come to our rescue.

Then as regards food situation, I would like to inform the honourable Members that there are at present 1342 Fair Price Shops functioning throughout the State and as the procurement progresses we will be able to increase them gradually.

Sir, I hope I have been able to meet all the points raised by the honourable Members of this House.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M., on Tuesday, the 12th November, 1957.

Shillong,

The 13th September, 1958.

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

A.G.P. (L.A.) No.132/58—220—16-9-1958.

15. Road, P.O. Lanka.
16. Messrs. Law Book Society, 4A, Wellington Square, Calcutta.
17. Messrs. Bodh Raj Marwah, Booksellers, Shop No.63, Pusa Colony Market, Delhi-Karol Bagh, New Delhi.
18. The Oxford Book and Stationery Co., Scindia House, New Delhi/17, Park Street, Calcutta.
19. Messrs Mokshada Pustakalaya, Publishers and Book Sellers, Gauhati.
20. Messrs Popular Book Depot (Regd.), Book-sellers, Publishers, etc., Lamington Road, Bombay-7.
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 Bachharam Akur Lnae, Calcutta-12, India.