

Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

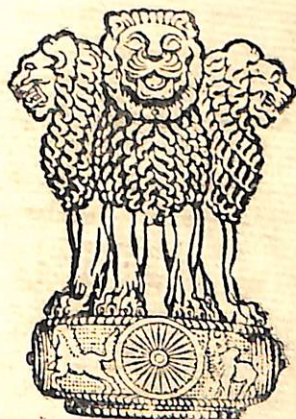
FIRST SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE SECOND
GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE
SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN
CONSTITUTION OF
INDIA

BUDGET SESSION

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Proceedings of the First Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled after the Second General Election under the Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitution of India

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Tuesday, the 18th June, 1957.

P R E S E N T

Shri Dev Kanta Barooah, B.A., LL.B., Speaker, in the Chair, four Ministers, seven Deputy Ministers, and sixty-five Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Construction of footpaths in the main streets of Jorhat Town

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH (Teok) asked :

30. Will the Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any money has been provided during the year 1957-58 for the construction of footpaths in the main streets of Jorhat Town to avert accidents ?

***Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education)** replied :

30.—No money has been provided for the purpose either in the State Budget or in the Budget of the Jorhat Municipal Board for the year 1957-58.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Sir, will the Government be pleased to take such proposal to allot money for footpaths in future ?

*The questions was replied by Shri Motiram Bora (Minister, Education) on account of the absence of Minister, L. S. G.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education): For a particular town such a proposal cannot be entertained. The hon. Members know that there is a provision in the Budget for widening the municipal roads and this provision is about one lakh of rupees and it is on self-help basis throughout the State.

Number of Primary Schools in Assam Valley

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

31. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—
- (a) The total number of Primary Schools and the number of school-going children in the Assam Valley?
 - (b) The total number of additional teachers required for these schools?
 - (c) The number of additional teachers already appointed?
 - (d) Whether Government propose to appoint the required number of additional teachers for improving the teaching standard and also to solve unemployment problem to some extent?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education) replied :

31.—(a) Number of Primary Schools is about 9,000 and number of school-going children is 10,70,000 approximately in the Assam Valley.

(b)—3,000 approximately.

(c)—500 additional teachers were appointed last year for Venture Schools.

(d)—Yes, subject to availability of funds and suitable teachers.

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi):
মই জানিব পাৰোনে কিমান লবাব কাৰণে এজন শিক্ষক দিয়া হয় ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education): It is not fixed. Generally for 40 students one teacher is to be provided, but this rule cannot be adhered to strictly for various reasons.

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA : চৰকাৰে জানেনে যে এজন শিক্ষকে প্ৰাইমেৰী স্কুলত ৮০-৯০ জন ল'ৰা পঢ়াব লাগে।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education) : কোনো কোনো ঠাইত তেনে হ'ব পাৰে।

Leave structure of 4th grade Government servants

✓ **Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar)** asked :

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

(a) Why the letter No. PWWU/56/84 of 24th March, 1957 from the Union to the authority of the Prince of Wales Technical School has not been answered as yet ?

(b) Whether there is any leave structure to the 4th grade employees and employees of commercial section of the Prince of Wales Technical School, Jorhat ?

(c) If so, why there are discriminations to grant leave to these employees ?

(d) Whether Government propose to grant leave with wages to the 4th grade employees from now and restore the losses to those who were deprived of the same before ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education) replied :

32. (a)—The reply to the Workers Union has since been sent by the Principal, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Institute, Jorhat.

(b)—Yes, there is leave structure for 4th grade Government Servants according to rule. But the two categories, *viz.*, (1) casual employees, and (2) employees of the commercial section on daily wages basis are not entitled to leave as per rule.

Casual employees are however sometimes allowed casual leave up to 10 days in genuine cases.

(c)—The terms under which the latter two categories are employed are different.

(d)—There is no such proposal.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Sir, there is some anomaly in the answers given here. My Question No.32(d) is "Whether Government propose to grant leave with wages to the 4th grade employees from now and restore the losses to those who were deprived of the same before?" and the answer given is "There is no such proposal." This I cannot understand.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education): The answer is there. Those who are regular employees get leave according to rule, and those who are irregular employees do not get leave.

Mr. SPEAKER : There are two categories of such employees. For one category there is provision for leave and for the other category there is no such provision. The answer is given in Answer to Question No.32(b).

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: My question is "Whether Government propose to grant leave with wages to the 4th grade employees from now....."

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education): Regular employees do get leave.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : The answer given here is not clear.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has made the point clear.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education): For permanent employees there is provision for leave and for the casual employees and employees of the commercial section on daily wages basis there is no proposal for leave. It is quite clear here, Sir.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: The question is whether Government propose to grant leave with wages to those casual employees. I think the hon. Member means this.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: Yes, Sir, that is my point.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education): There is no proposal to that effect, and we cannot have it for casual employees.

Unemployed persons in Tea Gardens

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that the number of unemployed persons in tea gardens is increasing day by day ?
- (b) If so, what is the number of such unemployed labourers ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to employ those unemployed labourers ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

33. (a)—Government have no definite information, but are considering to conduct a sample survey to assess the facts.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise now. Necessary action will be taken on receipt of the report.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Sir, is it a fact that some tea gardens are still recruiting labour from outside through their agencies and thus avoid recruiting unemployed labour at present day increased wages ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education): Yes, Sir, because in some cases tea garden surplus or unemployed labourers do not like to go to other tea gardens for employment.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Sir, are Government aware that the surplus labourers of a tea garden have no objection to being employed in the nearby tea garden ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA: Yes, that is right. Normally in special circumstances Government issue instructions to the Industry for making arrangements for employing surplus labourers of a tea garden in the nearby tea gardens where there is scope for employment.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: Will the Government cite some instances where surplus labourers of a tea garden have

been employed in nearby tea gardens through Government agency ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education): I cannot say offhand.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Is it a fact that there is no instance to that effect ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA That is not a fact.

**Girls' High School and Middle English School
in the Jorhat Subdivision.**

Srimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon)
asked :

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

(a) Whether Government are aware of the existence of a Girls' High School at Kakajan and a Girls' Middle English School at Karanga, in the Jorhat Subdivision ?

(b) Whether any representation on behalf of the local public has lately been received by the Government regarding grant-in-aid to these Institutions ?

(c) If so, whether Government propose to sanction adequate grant, both capital and recurring for the development of these Institutions ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

34. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The question of a recurring grant to Kakajan Girls' High School will be considered after the departmental recognition of the School.

That of Karanga Girls' Middle English School will be taken up when funds permit.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): May I know from Government when departmental recognition is expected to be given to the Kakajan Girls' High School ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education): After fulfilment of necessary conditions.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Is there any proposal in hand to help such institutions which come up to the standard of getting recognition?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA: There is no proposal from the Government. Rather those schools have to fulfil the conditions prior to getting any grant.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Will the Government help such institutions which come up to the standard to get recognition?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA: It is only after getting the recognition that the institutions concerned should come up for Government help.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Is it a fact that under certain circumstances these rules are relaxed?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA: No, Sir.

Flood Damage in Some Villages of Bagribari Mauza

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) asked:

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

(a) Whether Government are aware that all crops of a vast part of Mouza Bagribari of the villages Raumani, Raumari Pathar, Chenimari, Damdama, Chenglidia, Jatrada, Khutabari, Bardia, Sorudia, Atia, Dandali were damaged by flood and by water hyacinth since the last four years?

(b) If so, what is the cause of flood?

(c) Whether Government propose to make plan to protect this vast area?

(d) If so, what is the plan?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) replied :

35. (a)—Government are aware that some villages of Bagri-bari Mouza have been affected by floods during the last few years but no reports have been received about extensive damage to crops.

(b)—Flooding is due to the fact that the land in question is lower than the high flood level of the Brahmaputra.

(c)—There is no proposal at present to undertake any work for protection of the area from flood.

(d)—Does not arise.

General discussion on the Budget

Kumar PROKRITISH CHANDRA BARUA (Gauripur) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for kindly allowing me to speak a few words in connection with the general discussion of the Budget. Sir, I am not an orator, but as an accredited representative of the people, I am duty bound to place before this august House the woes and miseries of people whom I have the honour to represent.

Sir, going through the Budget Speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, I do not find anything hopeful for the people of much neglected Goalpara. I hope, Sir, my Friends from Goalpara now adorning the Treasury Benches will not object to my using the word 'neglected' as an adjective of Goalpara. Fact is fact. Sir, nothing has been done by the Government for the improvement of Goalpara during the last ten years though it is a border district of Assam. In view of its strategic importance, the district of Goalpara should receive special care and attention from the Government in the way as Assam being the frontier State needs special attention of the Government of India. In common with the other parts of the State the burning problem of Goalpara is the food. The tract of land bounded on the north by the Assam Rail Link, on the east by a line starting from Rangia *via* Koch Hazoo, Sualkuchi, Palasbari and Loharghat, on the south by part of Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills and on the west by East Pakistan is a flood-affected area but nothing has been done to improve the tract. Sir, in this vast area there are big Beels and Boro paddy may easily be introduced here by the Agriculture Department to improve the food situation. Secondly, Sir, the Muli system (forward sale) is one of the causes of shortage of food-grain. During the difficult period the rich merchants purchase in advance 75 per cent of

the food-grains from the cultivators at Rs. 5 per maund and hoard it to smuggle to Pakistan and West Bengal under the very nose of the authority and small quantity is sold at double the price to local people. It is an irony of fate, Sir, when the grower of food is starving, the truck-load of food is smuggled in thousands of tons to Pakistan.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): Unfortunately perhaps the amplifier is not working.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is also an act of God in this House. Can't help it.

Kumar PROKITISH CHANDRA BARUA (Gauripur): Specially, Sir, the Dhubri Subdivision is a paradise for smugglers. The entire western boundary of the district is with Pakistan which is still not well marked and there are a number of channels of the Brahmaputra where it is easy to ply country boats between the two countries. Over and above, large scale corruption among the Government staff maintained for the purpose of checking smuggling is to a large extent responsible for this state of affair. The opinion has gained ground among the masses that he who has money can purchase the favour of the Government staff. Sir, in my opinion, only opening of some cheap grain shops will not improve the situation as long as Boro cultivation is not introduced in large scale and the production of food is not increased. Strong step should be taken to stop this smuggling. Smugglers caught should be severely punished and Muli system should be prohibited by law.

Next I want to speak about the road system in our district. The road north of the railway line which is called the tribal line is the only road which connects Bilasipara with Sherfanguri and the other one is from Kokrajhar to Shorbhang. Both these roads are only fair weather tracks and we have no good road to carry on our trade with Bhutan. So we want an all weather track to Bhutan. This is a great need for us in this area.

The food situation needs special attention. Special step should be taken in this direction.

Sir, I want to speak a few words about the tribal people because I represent a large portion of these people. The people in the tribal are as are facing great hardship. They lost market for their timber in Pakistan which has added to their distress

From 1940 up till now I am in close contact with the tribal people, and I have seen and I have experienced that now-a-days they cannot rely upon us and think us as their own. I am proud that I have a number of friends among them and I marked that we mix with them with superiority complex and pity them and as a class taking advantage of their simplicity try to exploit them in all respects. Petty business-men are the main cause of creating a gap between us. For example, in the Garo Hills during our stay there, Sir, I have seen the people are cheated right and left in those areas. This should be stopped and prices should be fixed so that they are not cheated like this. I know it very well that a little friendly behaviour towards them turns them to be best friends. So, I have special regard for these simple people and I am eager to do any service for them to improve the relations between the hills and plains.

Then, Sir, those places in our district still uncultivated should be brought under plough on a co-operative system with the help of the Government, because the people are not rich enough to start co-operative farms on their own. Many people have settled in grazing reserves as the low-lying areas are inundated almost every year. As it is not possible to construct a Bund on the mighty Brahmaputra, collective farms on high lands are needed to improve the lot of our peasants.

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

Shri MAHADEV DAS [Barpeta (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বিত্তমন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াই এই সদনত প্ৰাকৃতিক বিপৰ্য্যয়ত বহুৰে বহুৰে পীড়িত হোৱা অসম মাতৃক পৰিচালনা কৰাৰ কাৰণে নতুন কৰ কাটলৰ বোজা জনসাধাৰণৰ ওপৰত নিদিয়াটক অতি কৌশলেৰে ১৯৫৭-৫৮ চনৰ কাৰণে যি এটি আয়-ব্যয়ৰ হিচাব তালিকা এই সদনত দাঙি ধৰিছে, যদিও হিচাবটো বাহী নহয় অৰ্থাৎ ৪ কোটি ৬১ লাখ টকা ঘাটি তথাপি মই তেওঁক মোৰ তৰফৰ পৰা কৃতজ্ঞতা জ্ঞাপন কৰিছোঁ। মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে জানে.....

Mr. SPEAKER: মাননীয় সদস্য মহোদয়ে কিবা কথা পোনে পোনে সদস্য সকলক সন্মোদন নকৰি, বিধান সভাৰ অধ্যক্ষক সন্মোদন কৰিব আৰু তেখেতৰ জৰিয়তেহে সদস্যসকলক সন্মোদন কৰিব।

Shri MAHADEV DAS: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় সদস্য সকলৰ অবিদিত নহয় যে, ভাৰতবৰ্ষই স্বাধীনতা পোৱাৰ পিচত, খোৱা-খাদ্যৰ কাৰণে এক সময়ত বৰ সঙ্কটত পৰিছিল। আমাৰ নেতৃস্থানীয় লোক সকলে বিদেশৰ পৰা ভীক্ষা জোলোদ্ধা পাতি খোৱা খাদ্যৰ যোগান কিছু দিনৰ কাৰণে কৰিব লগা হৈছিল। সেই সময়ত আমাৰ চৰকাৰে অধিক খাদ্য উৎপাদন অভিযান কৃষক ভাই সকলৰ সহায়তে গাফল্য মণ্ডিত কৰি তলিলে। বৰদুখ আৰু পৰিতাপৰ কথা, ১৯৫২ চনৰ পৰা আজি ১৯৫৭ হল—বাৰে বাৰে চৰকাৰক আবেদন নিবেদন কৰা স্বত্বেও অধিক শস্য উৎপাদনৰ বাবে যি নাটি বাইজৰ মাজত বিভৰণ কৰা হৈছিল তাক স্থায়ীভাৱে বন্দৰস্ত কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা

আজিও নকৰিলে। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক টানি অনুৰোধ কৰো যেন অনতি পলমে এই দুখীয়া কৃষক সকলক পটা-পত্ৰ দি তেওঁলোকৰ উপকাৰ সাধন কৰে। চৰকাৰে কমীল'ন আদিৰ কাৰণে গাঁৱলীয়া বেঞ্চ পাতি দি দৰীদ্র কৃষক সকলক সহায় কৰা আঁচনি সমূহৰ পৰা এই সকল বঞ্চিত আছে; তাৰ কাৰণ এই সকলৰ মাটিৰ পটাই নাই, তেনেস্থলত কেনেকৈ সেই বেঞ্চবিলাকৰ পৰা টকা আদি ল'ন পাব? আজিৰ এই সম্পদৰ সময় খিনিতো যদি বঞ্চিত হ'ব লগা হয়—তেন্তে ইয়াতকৈ আৰু কি দুখৰ কথা গাঁৱলীয়া দুখীয়া কৃষক সকলৰ হ'ব পাৰে?

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, খোৱা খাদ্য বুলি যদি আমি কেৱল শস্যৰ ওপৰতেই নিৰ্ভৰ কৰো। তেন্তে আমাৰ ভুল কৰা হ'ব। মই বুজো খোৱা খাদ্য বুলিলে অকল শস্যকে নুবুজায় মাছ, গাখীৰ, ফলমূল ও ইয়াৰ ভিতৰত পৰে। মাছ আমাৰ প্ৰধান খাদ্য। অসমৰ শতকৰা ৯৮ জন মানুহে মাছ খায় আৰু ইয়াৰ প্ৰতি মানুহৰ আকৰ্ষণ বেচি। সাধাৰণ উদাহৰণ এটি মই কও—সাধাৰণ হলেও—এজন মানুহে এটা মাছ কিনিবলৈ ঘৰলৈ আহোতে অন্য এজনে লগপালে তপবাই সুধে—মাছৰ দাম কিমান হে? আনফালে মাছতকৈ দামী বস্তু কিবা এটা কিনি হাতত লৈ আহিলেও মানুহে তাৰ কথা নোসোধে। সেই কাৰণে আমি নিশ্চয় ধৰিব পাৰো যে, মাছৰ প্ৰতি মানুহৰ লোভটো বেচি আৰু মানুহৰ প্ৰধান লোভী খাদ্যটোৰ প্ৰতি চৰকাৰে আজিও আওকান কৰি আছে। ইয়াৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে বিশেষ কোনো যত্ন লোৱা নাই, যদিও ঠাই বুজি কিছু কিছু মীনমহল খোলা হৈছে তথা পৰা যে আমাৰ প্ৰচুৰ পৰিমাণে মাছ যোগানৰ সহায় হ'ব সেইটো বিশ্বাস কৰিব নোৱাৰি। আজি আমাৰ মাজত দই ধৰণৰ মীনমহল আছে—প্ৰথমটো প্ৰাকৃতিক আৰু দ্বিতীয়টো মানুহে তৈয়াৰ কৰা পুখুৰি। প্ৰকৃতিৰ পৰা নদী, বিল আদিত হোৱা মাছৰ পৰিমাণ আগতে যথেষ্ট আছিল যদিও আজি কালি সেইবিলাক কমি আহিছে কাৰণ প্ৰকৃতিক বিপৰ্য্যয়ৰ ফলত ভৌগোলিক পৰিবৰ্তনহৈ—নদী-বিল আদি পোত খাই আহিছে আৰু আনহাতে নদী-বিল বিলাকৰ নিচেই কাষলৈকে মানুহে মাটি ভাঙ্গি খেতিপথাৰ কৰিবলৈ লোৱাই মহল বিলাক মৰি আহিব লগাইছে। মাছ মহলৰ পৰা চৰকাৰে বছৰি ১০।১২ লাখ টকা বাজহ পায়। এই টকাৰ পৰাই যদি মহল বিলাকৰ উন্নতিৰ হকে বছৰি ২।৩ লাখ টকা চৰকাৰে খৰচ কৰিলেহেতেন—মোৰ বিশ্বাস আজি মাছৰ যি অভাৱ পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে তাৰ পূৰণ হ'ল হেতেন। সেই কাৰণে মই ক'ব খুজিছো যাতে ভবিষ্যতে এই মহল বিলাকৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে বিশেষ যত্ন লয় নহলে অধিক খাদ্য উৎপাদন অভিযান কৃতকাৰ্য্য হোৱা ব'লি ক'বলৈ টান হ'ব আৰু লগতে মৎস্য-জীৱি লোকসকলৰ অপকাৰ কৰা হ'ব বিশেষকৈ, প্ৰায় চাৰি লাখ, মাছ-ব্যৱসায় কৰি বতী থকা অনুসূচিত জাতিৰ, লোকৰ।

গাখীৰ আমাৰ প্ৰধান খাদ্য। মানুহ ভূমিস্থ হোৱাৰ পৰাই, গাখীৰ মুখত দিব লাগে। এনে প্ৰধান এটা খাদ্যৰ প্ৰতি বিশেষ নজৰ নথকাত—অতীতৰ যি প্ৰচাৰ গাখীৰ আছিল তাৰ বিনিময়ে বিদেশী “পাউদাৰ মিল্ক” বণ্টানি কৰি আমি আজি ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব লগাত পৰিছো। ই বৰ দুখৰ কথা। গাখীৰৰ পৰিমাণ বঢ়াবৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে চেষ্টা কৰা নাই ব'লি ক'লে মিছা কোৱা হ'ব যেহেতু তিনিখন চৰকাৰী গাখীৰৰ কেন্দ্ৰ এতিয়া আমি দেখিছো গোহাটিৰ খানাপাৰাত, বাৰাপেটাত আৰু ডিব্ৰুগৰত। কিন্তু তাতগৈ চালে বেয়া লাগে যে তাত যিবিলাক গৰু-মহ আন ঠাইৰ পৰা আনি ৰখা হৈছে—গাখীৰৰ কাৰণে সেই বিলাকৰ চেহেৰা পানী বেয়াহৈ গৈছে আৰু গাখীৰো কম পৰিমাণে দিয়ে আৰু ই আমাৰ আৱশ্যকীয় মাত্ৰা পূৰাব নোৱাৰে। অতীজত আমাৰ ইয়াত বহুত গৰু মহৰ ‘বাখান’ (খুটি) আছিল আৰু এক শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহৰ ই ব্যৱসায় আছিল। যেতিয়া দেখিলে চৰনীয়া বিজাৰ্ত্তত ঘাহ কমি গ'ল আৰু তাৰ আশে-পাশে থকা জঙ্গলবোৰ খেতি পথাৰৰ কাৰণে ভাঙি পেলালে তেতিয়া এই বাখান বিলাক উঠি যাব লগা হ'ল আৰু আজি তাৰ প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়া হিচাবে আমি পাইছো গাখীৰৰ অভাৱ। এই অভাৱ দূৰ কৰা চৰকাৰৰ

প্ৰধান কৰ্ত্তব্য আৰু ইয়াকে কৰিবলৈ মই চৰকাৰক পৰামৰ্শ দিওঁ যে—চৰকাৰৰ ‘ট্ৰেজাৰী’ আৰু চালক আছেই—সেই বিলাক লৈ যিবিলাক চৰনীয়া বিজ্ঞান আছে—সেইবিলাকত ঠায়ে ঠায়ে চাহ কৰি পুনৰ বাহ হবলৈ দিয়ক। তেতিয়া আৰু আমাৰ গৰু মহ পালিবলৈ অসুবিধা নহব আৰু গাখীৰ অধিক পোৱা হব আৰু এক শ্ৰেণী মানুহৰ জীৱিকাৰ পথ ওলাব।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ফলমূলৰ কাৰনে ২য় পৰিকল্পনাত কেইখন মান ফলৰ বাগান খোলাৰ আচনি দেখিবলৈ পাইছো আৰু তাৰবাবে ভাল পাইছো। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মই এই পৰামৰ্শ দিব খোজো—সেইটো হৈছে—বছৰি আমি ‘বন মহোৎসৱ’ উৎসৱ পালন কৰো আৰু বছৰি বহুত টকা পয়চা খৰচ কৰি বহুতো ফল মূলৰ গছ ৰোও। কিন্তু পিচত তাত তত্কাৰধান নোলোৱাৰ হেতু গছ পুলি বিলাক মৰি যায়। এই বিলাক গছপুলি ৰোৱাৰ পিচত তত্কাৰধান লোৱাৰ প্ৰয়োজন আৰু ইয়াৰ ভাৰ P. W. D. ক দিয়া উচিত—কাৰণ ৰাস্তাবিলাকৰ দাতিয়ে দাতিয়ে এই গছপুলি বিলাক ৰোৱা হৈছে আৰু ৰাস্তাৰ তত্কাৰধান লবলৈ P. W. D. ৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলো সময়তে আছেই। সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ ‘বন মহোৎসৱ’ আৰু এই মহোৎসৱত ৰোৱা গছ পুলি বিলাক P.W.D.ৰ জৰীয়েতে ৰোলে আৰু কোন কোন ৰাস্তাৰ কাষত কিমান ফল জাতীয় গছ পুলি যেনে, আম কঠাল, ৰোৱা হৈছে সেই বিলাকৰ তত্কাৰধান P. W. D.এ ললে নিশ্চয় মই ভাবো কিছু ফলৰ যোগান আমি বঢ়াব পাৰিম আৰু ই আমাৰ খাদ্য সমস্যাতে আংশিক ভাবে সহায় কৰিব নিশ্চয়।

মহোদয় মই এতিয়া শিক্ষা বিষয়ে অলপ কওঁ। বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে যি হিচাব তালিকা এই সদনত ডাফি ধৰিছে তাৰ ভিতৰত আমি দেখিবলৈ পাইছো যে শিক্ষা শিতানত প্ৰায় ৫ কোটি টকা এই বছৰৰ কাৰণে ধৰা হৈছে। আজি স্বাধীনতা পোৱা প্ৰায় ১০ বছৰ হ’ল, ইয়াৰ ভিতৰতো আমাৰ নিৰক্ষৰতা দূৰ হোৱা নাই। ই বৰ দুখৰ কথা। নিৰক্ষৰতা দূৰ কৰিবৰ উপায় মাত্ৰ নৈশবিদ্যালয় আৰু প্ৰাইমাৰী স্কুলৰ জৰীয়েতে। মই আন ঠাইৰ কথা কব খোজো নাই, মাত্ৰ উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে কওঁ যে বৰপেটা মহকুমাৰ জনসংখ্যা প্ৰায় ৫ লাখ, ৪৭ হাজাৰ—গাঁও প্ৰায় ১,০০০ খন—প্ৰাইমাৰী স্কুল প্ৰায় ৮০০ খন মান আছে, আৰু ‘ভেঞ্চাৰ’ স্কুল প্ৰায় ২০০ খন মান আছে। এই ‘ভেঞ্চাৰ’ স্কুলৰ শিতানত টকা বেচি নৰখাব কাৰণে বছৰে প্ৰায় ৩০/৩৫ খন মানহে আমি স্কুল বোৰ্ডৰ তললৈ আনিব পাৰোঁ। এতিয়া ভাবি চাওক যদি বছৰত ৩০ খন কইহে আনিব লগা হয়, ২০০ খন স্কুল বোৰ্ডে এই নিয়মত লাগিলে ৬ বছৰ কাল লাগি ২য় পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিকী পৰিকল্পনাৰ কাল পাব হৈ যাব। আমি কওঁ যে “শিক্ষাই জাতি” যদি সেয়ে হয়, প্ৰাইমাৰী শিক্ষা শিতানত অধিক টকা দি অনতিপলমে অসমৰ ভেঞ্চাৰ স্কুল বিলাক স্কুল বোৰ্ডৰ তললৈ আনিব লাগে, আৰু লগতে এই চোও চাব লাগে যাতে এজন শিক্ষক থকা স্কুল এটিও নেবাখে কাৰণ তেওঁৰ বেমাৰ অৱস্থাত সদায় স্কুল বন্ধ হৈ থকা দেখিবলৈ পাও। গতিকে মই শিক্ষা মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ কৃপাদৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো। আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ কিছুমান ঠাইত মাদ্ৰাসা M.E. আৰু মাদ্ৰাসা High Schoolৰ সহায়ত সংস্কৃত টোলৰ সহায়ত শিক্ষা লাভ কৰে। সেই শিক্ষা অনুষ্ঠান সমূহত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা বিশেষ টকা পইচাৰ সহায় নোপোৱাত ৰাইজৰ মাজত এই অনুষ্ঠান দৰকাৰী স্বত্বেও ভাল ধৰণে কাম দেখুৱাব পৰা নাই। গতিকে তাৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে যেন টকা পইচাৰ সহায় সম্বল দি ৰাইজৰ মনত উৎসাহ দিয়ে।

মহোদয় জলমহলদাৰ সকলৰ প্ৰতি আজি বহু বছৰ ধৰি যি অন্যায় বিচাৰ কৰি আহিছে, তাকে কব ওলাইছো। মই আগতে কৈছো যে আমাৰ জলমহলৰ পৰা বছৰি প্ৰায় ১০/১২ লাখ টকা পায়। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ যিবিলাক বিভাগ আছে তাক ৰক্ষা কৰাৰ কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কৰ্মচাৰী নিযুক্ত কৰিছে, যেনে—বনাবভাগ ৰক্ষাৰ কাৰণে ফৰেষ্ট গাৰ্ড আছে কিন্তু মাছ মহল ৰক্ষাৰ কাৰণে তেনে গাৰ্ড নথকাত মহলদাৰ সকলে কষ্ট ভোগ কৰিব লগাত

পৰিছে। মাছৰ লোভত পৰি গাৱলীয়া বাইজে খেতি—মহলৰ ওপৰত অত্যাচাৰ কৰিব ওলায়। সেই অবস্থাত যদি শান্তি বন্ধাৰ কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেন্টক পুলিচ আদিৰ সহায় খোজা হয় তেন্তে তেওঁলোকে ২/১ চিপাহী দিহে সহায় কৰে। বহু জনতাৰ মাজত ২/১ জন চিপাহীৰ হাক কোনেও নেমানে। সেই কথা যদি কোনো চিপাহীয়ে থানাত জনায় যে মাত্ৰ চিপাহীৰ দ্বাৰা মহলত শান্তি প্ৰতিস্থা কৰা সম্ভৱ নহয় তেতিয়া হয়তো Arm-Police পঠাই দিয়ে, সিও ঠিক যি সময়ত সহায় দিবকাৰ সেই সময়ত পাব হৈ যোৱাৰ পিচত। ওপৰোক্ত কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ লগত লিখা পঢ়া কৰি থাকোতে প্ৰায় মাছমহল বাইজে লুট পাট কাৰ শেষ কৰে। তাৰ পিছতহে যদি কোনোবা মহলদাৰে কিবা কৰি Arm-Policeৰ সহায় পায়, তদুপৰি ইয়াৰ ভৰণ পোষণ সকলো মহলদাৰে বহণ কৰিব লাগে। এনেস্থলত দেখা যায় যে মহলৰ দামতকৈ পুলিচৰ খৰচ কিছুমান মহলত বেচি দিব লাগে। সেই কাৰণে মই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টক অনুৰোধ জনাও যিহেতু জলমহলবোৰ গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ সম্পত্তি সেই বাবে সেই মহলবোৰ বন্ধা কৰাৰ কাৰণে প্ৰত্যেক মহকুমাতে জলবন্ধক বা গাৰ্ড কৰিব লাগে যাতে মহল চলোৱাত কোনো বেমেজালি নহয় আৰু গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে ক্ষতিৰ কাৰণে মহলদাৰ সকলক মাফ আদি দিব লগাতে নপৰে।

দ্বিতীয় কথা হৈছে মহোদয়—যোৱাবাৰ অথাৎ ১৯৫৬ চনৰ আগষ্ট মাহৰ ৪ তাৰিখে অগম গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে জনাইছে যে অনুসূচীত জনজাতি লোক সকলে যদি বিজাৰ্ড কৰেগৈত জলমহল, আৰু Public Works Department ত কাম কৰিব খোজে তেওঁলোকক শতকৰা ওপৰত থকা ডাকৰ পৰা ৭½ ভাগ বাদ কৰি অন্য উচ্চ জাতৰ লোকতকৈ কমত দিব। বৰ ভাল কথা তাৰ বাবে জাতিয় গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ শলাগ ললোঁ। আৰু উক্ত কথা ১৯৫৬ চনৰ চেপ্তেম্বৰ মাহৰ ৬ তাৰিখে অসম ষ্ট্ৰীবুন আদি বাতৰি কাকতত প্ৰচাৰ হোৱাত সৰ্বসাধাৰণে ভাবিছিল যে প্ৰজাৰ মঙ্গল হব। দুখৰ কথা Public Works Department, Forest বিভাগে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিলে কিন্তু Revenue Department এ এই আইন সময়ত প্ৰয়োগ নকৰাত অনুসূচীত জাতিৰ যি সকল মাছ ব্যবসায়ৰ লোক আছিল, তেওঁলোকৰ মহৎ অপকাৰ হল। জাননী দিয়া মতে বুজিব পাৰিছিল যে ডাকৰ উচ্চ টকাৰ পৰা শতকৰা ৭½ ভাগ কম পালে বহুত বেহায় পাব। অৱশেষত তাক কাৰ্য্যত পৰিণত নকৰাত মহলদাৰ সকলৰ বহু ক্ষতি হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে Revenue Minister মহোদয়ক অনুৰোধ কৰে যাতে এনে ধৰণৰ বিচাৰ যদি তেওঁৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণত আনে তাক মাফ আদি দি সহায় কৰে।

নগৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে এখন আইন হাতত লোৱাত সুখ পাইছে। তাত গোহাটি আৰু তিনচুকীয়াৰ কথা আছে। ইয়াৰ পিচত যেন উক্ত উন্নয়ন আইন বৰপেটা নগৰত প্ৰয়োগ কৰে। কাৰণ মই অলপ আভাষ দিও ইয়াৰ জনসংখ্যা প্ৰায় ৩০,০০০ হাজাৰ; মাটি কালি ১½ বৰ্গ মাইল; তদুপৰি মাজে মাজে খাল আদি বহুত বাদ যায়। একোষৰ লোক প্ৰায় ৬৭ হাত মান মাটিত থাকি সংসাৰ চলাব লগাত পৰিছে। তদুপৰি অনুসূচীত প্ৰধান ২ খন হাটি টাউনৰ ভিতৰত আছে যেনে ভকতপাৰা, আৰু নহাটি তাত সংক্ৰামক বেমাৰে মানুহৰ প্ৰাণ ধ্বংস কৰিব ধৰিছে। যি বেমাৰৰ কাৰণে মানুহে ভয় পায় কুষ্ঠ আৰু টি বি। সেয়েহে মই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টক অনুৰোধ জনাও যাতে চৰকাৰে তদন্ত কৰি অতি সোনকালে মানুহক এই বিষম ৰোগৰ পৰা উদ্ধাৰ কৰে।

কুটিৰ শিল্পৰ আঁচনি দেখি অতি সুখ পাইছে। আৰু সুখ পালোহেতেন যদি, আমি সভ্যতা পোৱাৰ লগে লগে আৰিষ্কাৰ হোৱা হীৰা মাটিৰ সাজ যাৰ সহায়ত মানুহে বান্ধি খাব শাকিলে তাৰ যদি পুনৰুদ্ধাৰ কৰাৰ ব্যবস্থা কৰিলেহেঁতেন।

জনজাতি ভাই সকলক “পছোৱাই” মদ খোৱা বন্ধ কৰাত ভাল পাইছে যদিও পছোৱাই বন্ধ হোৱাৰ লগেলগে হীৰা সাজৰ চাহিদা কমি আহিছে। এই হীৰা সাজৰ উন্নতি কৰি অন্য কামৰ বাবে যাতে ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব পাৰি তেনে ব্যৱস্থা কৰি হীৰা সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোক সকলৰ এই ঘৰুৱা শিল্পটো বহুদূৰ বৰ্ধাৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো। তদুপৰি খেতি পঠাবৰ কাৰণে সমবায় পদ্ধতিত কিছ মাটি খেতিৰ কাৰণে দিব লাগে।

আজি কেই বছৰ মান আগতে অসম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে মৰাপাটৰ ওপৰত এটি টেক্স লগায়, সেই টেক্স অসমীয়া বাইজে সমৰ্থন কৰিছে কাৰণ এই টেক্সৰ উদ্দেশ্য হৈছে যে এই টেক্সৰ যোগেদি যি অৰ্থ সংগ্ৰহ হব সেই টকা যাতায়তৰ সুবিধা আৰু মৰাপাট পচোৱাৰ উন্নত ব্যৱস্থাৰ কাৰণে খৰচ কৰা হব। সেইকাৰণেই বাইজে এই টেক্স লগোৱাত কোনো আপত্তি কৰা নাছিল। কিন্তু সেই ধৰণৰ কোনো আচনি এতিয়ালৈকে দেখিবলৈ নাপাই দুখ পাইছে। গতিকে মৰাপাট উৎপাদন হোৱা ঠাইত অতি সোনকালে পুখুৰী আৰু বাস্তা তৈয়াৰ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবৰ বাবে চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনালো। এই যাতায়তৰ অসুবিধাৰ কাৰণে মৰাপাট খেতি কৰা পমুৱা ভাই সকল এতিয়াও পিচপৰা অবস্থাত আছে।

জনস্বাস্থ্যৰ গতি ক্ষিপ্ৰ নোহোৱাত গাৱলীয়া বাইজে চিকিৎসাৰ বাবে বহুত কষ্ট ভুগিব লাগিছে। চৰকাৰে যিদৰে ২ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত গোটেই খন অসমক মৌজা পঞ্চায়তৰ অধীনলৈ আনিবৰ চেষ্টা কৰিছে সেইদৰে জনস্বাস্থ্যৰ চিকিৎসালয় বিলাকে যদি প্ৰত্যেক মৌজাতে তৈয়াৰ কৰাৰ আঁচনি লয় তেনেহলে গাৱলীয়া বাইজৰ বহু খিনি দুদশা দূৰ হব বুলি মোৰ, বিশ্বাস।

মহাশয় মোৰ বহুত কথা কব লগীয়া আছিল কিন্তু সময়ৰ অভাৱত মনৰ কথা মনতে থাকিল। গতিকে মই ইমানতে মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণি মাৰিলো। নমস্কাৰ।

Shri DIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰীদেৱে সদনত দাঙি ধৰা বাজেটখনৰ প্ৰতি মই সমৰ্থন জনাইছো আৰু তেখেতৰো শলাগ লৈছো। এই বাজেটত থল মূল ভাবে দেশৰ আভ্যন্তৰীণ অৱস্থালৈ লক্ষ্য ৰাখি Social Welfare State এখন গঢ়িবলৈ আৱশ্যকীয় বিষয়বোৰৰ প্ৰতি চকু দিয়া হৈছে। অৱশ্যে অসমৰ নিচিনা পিচপৰা আৰু অনুন্নত দেশ এখনৰ কাৰণে সদায় ঘাটি পৰা বাজেট মুখৰ কথা নহয়, যদিও বিত্তমন্ত্ৰীদেৱে তেখেতৰ ভাষণত অসমৰ আৰ্থিক দুৰৱস্থাৰ ইঙ্গিত নিদিয়াকৈ থকা নাই। কিন্তু আমাৰ অসমৰ দৰে এখন দুখীয়া ৰাজ্যত উন্নয়নমূলক আঁচনি সমূহ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিবলৈ হলে ঘাটি বাজেটৰ বিপদ মূৰত নলৈ উপায় নাই। বাজেট ঘাটি পৰিলেও, চৰকাৰ আৰু জনসাধাৰণৰ উমৈহতীয়া নেবানেপেৰা চেষ্টাত আৰু সকলোৰে ঐকান্তিক সহযোগিতাত আচনি সমূহ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰি তুলিব পাৰিলে আমি হতাশ হবৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই।

অসম ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ ভিতৰতেই এখন সমস্যাবহুল প্ৰদেশ। প্ৰাকৃতিক দূৰ্যোগ সমূহে এই সমস্যা আৰু জটিল কৰি তুলিছে। এপিনে ভূমিহীন কৃষকক উপযুক্ত পৰিমাণৰ মাটি দিবলৈ আমাৰ মাটি নাই আনফালে আমাৰ ইয়াত এনে কোনো Major বা Heavy Industry গঢ়ি উঠনাই যত কিছ মানুহৰ অনু সংস্থানৰ দিহা কৰি দিব পাৰে। বেকাৰ সমস্যা বাঢ়ি গৈছে তাতে আকৌ নগা পাহাৰৰ ঘটনাই আমাৰ জাতীয় পুঞ্জিত এটা বৃহৎ অংশ গুহি লৈছে। এইবোৰ সমস্যা বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে ভাষণত উল্লেখ কৰিছে। পঞ্চ-বাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনা বোৰৰ কৃতকাৰ্য্যতাৰ ওপৰতেই এই সমস্যাবোৰৰ সমাধান নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিছে। পঞ্চ-বাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনা কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিবলৈ হলে জনসাধাৰণৰ সহযোগ দৰ্কাৰ, তেওলোকৰ মনত

নতুন প্ৰেৰণা জগাই তোলাৰ একান্ত আৱশ্যক। তাকে কৰিবলৈ হলে প্ৰশাসনীয় ব্যৱস্থাত চলিত Red tapismo দূৰ কৰিব লাগিব আৰু দুৰ্নীতি নিৰোধৰ কাৰণে আৱশ্যকীয় ব্যৱস্থা লব লাগিব।

আজি দেশৰ খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ গভীৰতা চৰকাৰে উপলব্ধি কৰি তাৰ সুসমাধানৰ কাৰণে বিবিধ কাম হাতত লৈছে। ভূমি আইনৰ সংস্কাৰ সাধন, পতিত মাটি আবাদি কৰণৰ ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ, খেতিয়কক উন্নত ধৰণৰ বীজ আৰু সাৰ যোগানৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰণ, নলা আৰু মখাউবি কৰণ আদি নানা কাম বা আচনি চৰকাৰে হাতত লৈছে। এই আচনিবোৰ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিবলৈ হলে চৰকাৰী কৃষি বিভাগৰ বৰ্তমান চলি থকা System বা নীতিৰ আমূল পৰিৱৰ্তনৰ আৱশ্যক। মই ব্যক্তিগত হিচাপে কাৰো ওপৰত দোষাৰোপ কৰিব নোখোজোঁ। মুঠতে এইটো ডাঠি কব পাৰো যে কৃষি বিভাগৰ পৰা সাধাৰণ খেতিয়কে যি ধৰণৰ সাহায্য বা বুদ্ধি পৰামৰ্শ পাব লাগিছিল সেই হিচাবে সহায় পোৱা নাই। সেইদেখি অনতিপলমে চৰকাৰী কৃষি বিভাগৰ বৰ্তমান চলি থকা গোটেই System বা যন্ত্ৰটোৰ পৰ্যালোচনা কৰি এটা বিজ্ঞান সম্মত প্ৰগতিমূলক পন্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ মই চৰকাৰক পৰামৰ্শ দিওঁ।

মাটি আৰু খেতি সম্বন্ধে চৰকাৰে পোৱা পৰিসংখ্যাৰ বিষয়েও মোৰ সন্দেহ আছে। বহু সময়ত এটা সংখ্যাই আন এটা সংখ্যাৰ সত্যতা অস্বীকাৰ কৰে। statistical figure ৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিয়েই দেশৰ উন্নয়ন মূলক আঁচনি সমূহ গ্ৰহণ কৰা হয়। নিতুল statistical feigure ৰ ওপৰতেই আঁচনিৰ কৃতকাৰ্য্যতা নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে। যদি এই figure সত্য নহয় তেনেহলে আমি আমাৰ সকলো প্ৰচেষ্টাবেই নিষ্ফলতাক মাতি অনা হব। ই এটা গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ আৰু আঁচনি সমূহৰ মূল কথা বুলি মই ভাবো। আশা কৰো চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ৰ প্ৰতি সজাগ হব।

মহোদয়, আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত বৰ্তমান বেকাৰ সমস্যাই আটাইতকৈ ডাঙৰ সমস্যাৰ উদ্ভৱ কৰিছে। এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ হলে প্ৰধানকৈ আমি দুটা বিষয়লৈ মন কৰিব লাগিব।

প্ৰথমটো হল, আমাৰ খেতিয়ক শ্ৰেণীৰ সমস্যা। এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ আমি আমাৰ ভূমিহীন খেতিয়ক সকলক এটা নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত পৰিমাণৰ খেতিৰ মাটি দি উন্নত ধৰণৰ খেতিৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগিব, যাতে তেওলোকে সূচাৰুৰূপে খেতি কৰি অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিব পাৰে। খেতিয়কৰ অসুবিধাবোৰ আতবাই সকলো খেতিয়ককে কামত লগাব নোৱাৰিলে কৃষকৰ বেকাৰ সমস্যাই আমাৰ অৰ্থনীতিত এটা দুৰ্যোগৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিব। সেইদেখি যাতে কৃষকৰ বেকাৰ সমস্যা নাৰাঢ়ে তাৰবাবে আমি চিন্তা কৰি ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লোৱা দৰ্কাৰ। অকল কৃষিৰে ৰাজ্যৰ বেকাৰৰ সমস্যা দূৰ কৰিবলৈ যোৱাটো বৃথা প্ৰয়াস মাত্ৰ। এখন ৰাজ্যত শিল্পানুষ্ঠান গঢ়ি তুলিব নোৱাৰিলে তাৰ বেকাৰ সমস্যা সদায় বাঢ়ি যাব। গতিকে কৃষিৰ উন্নতিৰ লগে লগে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত কুটিৰ শিল্প আৰু বৃহৎ শিল্প গঢ়ি তুলিব লাগিব, কিন্তু দেশখন উদ্যোগীকৰণ কৰিলেই আমাৰ বেকাৰ সমস্যা সমাধান হব নোৱাৰে। যদিহে আমি আমাৰ ডেকাসকলক বিবিধ কাৰিকৰী বিদ্যাত পাৰ্গত কৰি তুলিব নোৱাৰোঁ। সুখৰ কথা যে চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ৰ প্ৰতি সজাগ হৈছে আৰু ৰাজ্যত বিবিধ বিষয়ত ডেকাসকলৰ প্ৰশিক্ষণ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে। কিন্তু এই খিনিতে মই উনু কিয়াও ওলাই অহাৰ পিচতো তেওঁলোকে স্বাধীনভাবে কাম কৰিবলৈ অপাৰগ। কিয়নো আমাৰ Technical School ৰ শিক্ষা প্ৰধানতঃ Theoretical, তাৰ পিচতো তেওঁলোকৰ Practical শিক্ষাৰ দৰ্কাৰ। এই বিষয়ে ৮ জুনৰ অসম Tribune ত প্ৰকাশ হোৱা শ্ৰীআৰ, এন চাকিৰ চিঠি এখনৰ তলত দিয়া অংশটোৰ প্ৰতি চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰো।

“From my personal knowledge of the answer papers of the candidates of the H. R. H. Technical Institution, Jorhat, I found that the students were generally not up to the mark in the practical side of engineering profession. It is true that no technical institution can produce a fully trained engineer who can immediately after completing his course of studies take up any high position of technical responsibility unless he has had proper practical training.

In connection with the technical education in Assam for the quick turnover of useful engineers I make the following suggestions for consideration :—(1) Provision for adequate workshop and laboratory facilities to be made in every technical institution. (2) Actual manufacturing of machine building of model dams, bridges, roads, drawing of transmission lines, etc., should be included as part of the course in technical schools and colleges”.

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ নিজা অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰাও কও যে এই লোকসকলে পাচ কৰি ওলাই অহাৰ পিচতেই তেওঁলোক আমাৰ আৱশ্যকীয় কামৰ উপযুক্ত নহয়। সেই দেখি বৰ্তমান চলি থকা প্ৰশিক্ষণ ব্যৱস্থাৰ দ্বাৰা আমি কাৰিকৰী বনুৱাৰো অভাৱ মাৰিব নোৱাৰো আৰু নিবনুৱা সমস্যাবো সমাধান আশা কৰিব নোৱাৰোঁ।

সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক এই পৰামৰ্শকে দিও যে অন্যান্য ৰাজ্যত যেনেকৈ সেই লোক সকলে Technical Schools ৰ পৰা পাচ কৰি ওলাই অহাৰ পিচত কোনো কাৰখানাত Apprentice হৈ এটা নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত সময় Practical কাম কৰিবলৈ Follow up Scheme আছে, ঠিক তেনেকৈ আমাৰ ইয়াতো প্ৰশিক্ষণ পোৱা ডেকাসকলৰ কাৰণে Practical Training ৰ ব্যৱস্থা থাকিব লাগে, তেতিয়াহে আমি Fitter, Turner, Welder আদি বিবিধ কাৰিকৰী বণুৱাৰ যোগান ধৰিব পাৰিম আৰু একমাত্ৰ তেতিয়াহে অসমত হব লগীয়া প্ৰস্তাৱিত উদ্যোগ সমূহে আমাৰ নিবনুৱা সমস্যাৰ সমাধানত সহায় কৰিব।

আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত শিক্ষাৰ শিতানত যথেষ্ট টকা ধৰা হৈছে। ই বৰ সুখৰ কথা। ৰাজ্যত বিবিধ প্ৰশিক্ষণবোৰ বিশেষ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে কিন্তু এটা কথা নকৈ নোৱাৰো। মাননীয় সদস্যসকলৰ বহুতেই প্ৰাইমাৰী স্কুলসমূহৰ ঘৰৰ দুৰৱস্থাৰ কথাকৈ তাৰ কাৰণে অৰ্থ সাহায্যৰ পৰামৰ্শ দিছে। ভাল স্কুল ঘৰৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা সঁচাকৈয়ে দৰ্কাৰ কিন্তু তাতোকৈ বেচি জৰুৰী ছাত্ৰ অনুপাতে অধিক শিক্ষকৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা। মই এজন শিক্ষক হিচাবে মোৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা কও যে ভাল ঘৰ নহলে ভাঙ্গা ঘৰত স্কুল কৰিলেও শিক্ষাৰ যিমান অৱনতি নহয় পাঁচটা শ্ৰেণীৰ অত্যধিক লৰাক এজন শিক্ষকে পঢ়ালে যিমান অৱনতি হয়। আজি আমি দেখিছো যে এজন শিক্ষকে পাঁচোটা শ্ৰেণীৰ একোখন স্কুলত ৮০-৯০ লৈকে লৰা ছোৱালী পঢ়াব লাগে। এনে ক্ষেত্ৰত শিক্ষক যিমানহে ভাল নহওক ৮০-৯০ জন ছাত্ৰক কোনোপধ্যে ভাল শিক্ষা দিব নোৱাৰে। একোজন শিক্ষকে ৩০ জনৰ ওপৰ ছাত্ৰ পঢ়াব নোৱাৰে বহু শ্ৰেণীৰ স্কুলত এই সংখ্যাও অধিকহে। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে যততকৈও এই বিষয়টোৰ প্ৰতি বিশেষ চিন্তা কৰে আৰু ছাত্ৰ সংখ্যা অনুপাতে আৱশ্যকীয় শিক্ষকৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰে।

আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ ট্ৰাইবেলসকল পিচপৰা, তেওঁলোকক আগবঢ়াই নিবলৈ ৰাজ্যত যথেষ্ট ব্যৱস্থা কৰাৰ কাৰণে বিভূ-মন্ত্ৰীদেৱক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছোঁ।

কিন্তু অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই যি সমষ্টিৰ পৰা আহিছে সেই সমষ্টিৰ বুটীদিহিং মৌজা, ইন্থেম, উলুপ, নংলাই, কেটেটাং, বৰ ফাকিয়াল, ডিবং, হাচাক, পাংচ, আদি গাঁও সমূহ আৰু টিৰাপ Transferred ট্ৰাইবেল অঞ্চলৰ কথা সদস্য সকলে শুনিছে আচৰিত হ'ব। তেওঁলোকৰ সেই ঠাইবিলাকত এনে এটা বাস্তা নাই যি বাস্তাবে মানুহে অলপ খোজকাঢ়ি যাব পাৰে। হাটিৰ মাজৰ পতি বোৰেই এই মানুহ বোৰৰ আলি বাট। যোৱা সাধাৰণ নিৰ্বাচনৰ সময়ত মই সেই অঞ্চললৈ যাব লগীয়া হোৱাত হাবি জঙ্ঘল, বোকা মাজেবেহে গাওঁৰ পাচত গাওঁ খোজ কাঢ়ি যাব লগীয়া হৈছিল। এই অঞ্চলটোৰ লোক সকলে আজিও সেই প্ৰাগঐতিহাসিক যুগতেই পৰি আছে। তেওঁলোকৰ উন্নতি আৰু প্ৰগতিৰ কোনো আশাই তেওঁলোকে কৰিব নোৱাৰে। মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যেন অনতিপলমে অন্ততঃ পেঙেৰীৰ পৰা ইন্থেম, উলুপ, নংলাই, কেটেটাং, বৰ ফাকিয়াল আৰু ডিবঙৰ মাজেৰে মাৰ্ঘে বিটালৈ মটৰ যাব পৰা ডাঙৰ আলি বাট এটা কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰে।

চৰকাৰে নগৰ পৰিকল্পনাৰ আঁচনি এখন লৈছে। সেই আঁচনিত অকল ডিব্ৰুগৰ আৰু তিনচুকীয়াকহে ধৰা হৈছে। ডিগবই তেল কোম্পানীৰ বাহিৰত যিখন নগৰ (Town) আছে, তাৰ নিচিনা ঘনবসতি আৰু কতো নাই বুলি মই ভাবো। সেই ঠাইত মানুহ যে কেনেকৈ আছে তাক নেদেখিলে উপলব্ধি কৰা টান। বহুদিনৰ পৰা চৰকাৰে তাত মিউনিচিপালিটি বা টাউন কমিটি কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আৱশ্যকীয় সকলো ব্যৱস্থা লোৱাৰ পাচতো আজিও চৰকাৰীভাবে কোনো ঘোষণা নিদিয়াৰ কথা মই বুজা নাই। মই আশা কৰোঁ চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ে সোনকালে এটা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব। নগৰ পৰিকল্পনাৰ যি আঁচনি আছে তাত আমাৰ ডিগবইখনো ভুক্ত কৰিব বুলি মই সানুনয়ে অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

শেহত আনাৰ মাননীয় বিত্ত-মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে বাজেটত আমাৰ বহুমুখী সমস্যাৰ কথা বিলাক ফহিয়াই দেখুৱাইছে আৰু তাৰ সমাধান কৰাৰ এটা প্ৰবল মনোভাবৰ চানেকিও দিছে।

এই আঁচনি বিলাক সফল হ'ব বুলি আশা কৰি মোৰ বক্তৃতাৰ সামৰণী মাৰিলোঁ।

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the Finance Minister for giving us a detailed picture of the economic life in Assam. I am also thankful to him that although he has presented a Budget that is deficit to the tune of Rs. 4 crores yet he has not considered it advisable to levy any visible tax on our people. I say 'visible tax' because I feel that there will be invisible tax on the people even in this Budget and I also do not find in those items the amounts of which is being taken into consideration in giving us the correct estimates of the Budget. I am referring to the conversion of the various taxes under sales tax, tax on cigarettes and cigars, tax on petroleum. I find that these equation with Naya Paise may bring to the treasury a sum not less than Rs. 70 lakhs because in smoking tobacco alone the new conversion will leap to an increase of tax to the tune of about Rs. 20 per cent. I may be wrong either this way or that but it should not be far from this figure.

*Speech not corrected.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) : Is it 20 per cent *advalorem* ?

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** Not *advalorem*. Whatever tax is there now, over and above that you get 20 per cent more, and that should have been shown but that is not very much. I congratulate him for he has not levied any new tax on our people and I am also glad that he has admitted that already the burden of tax due to its levy by the Central Government is very heavy on the middle class and the poorer sections of our people. He has given us a picture of the economic life of Assam which speaks for itself. As a matter of fact, the people in Assam are perhaps worst off than in any other State in India. Here, the price level of almost every conceivable article has gone up, cost of living has gone up and over and above that the *per capita* income is below than the *per capita* income of the people elsewhere in India. Even during the First Five Year Plan period when the *per capita* income in almost all States went up, in our State it did not go up in the same way and it is only 5.5 against 10.2. Our *per capita* income is already low. We have not been able to fill the lacuna, to fill up the gap, between our *per capita* income and the *per capita* of an average Indian elsewhere as against that we are living in an uneconomic State where taxes are high, prices are high and that we are actually in a very bad economic plight. One thing very noteworthy is that our Five Year Plans almost reconcile with our Five Year allocations. In a way it makes us difficulty to visualise things in their proper perspective and make certain promises, promises which we find it difficult to fulfill afterwards.

Sir, the First Five Year Plan, on the admission of the Government itself has not taken us any far. In our State if we take item by item, we will find that we are in a very deplorable state. First of all, let us take the case of agriculture. When I speak of agriculture, I speak not only about the agricultural operations but about the land holdings of the people, I speak also about the average yield per acre and all these things.

First, coming to the problem of land holdings, we find that different surveys are carried out by the Statistical Department. It is said that about 10 per cent of the people here are completely landless. It may be less than 10 per cent in Darrang, it may be the figure is slightly higher in Sibsagar but if all those surveys are taken together and average is calculated then it will not be less than 10 per cent of our agricultural population. Then the Minister has himself admitted that on the average holdings

*Speech not corrected.

vary between 10 bighas and one bigha or 36 per cent to about 22 per cent in various districts of Assam. From our survey we find that there will not be more than 12 to 13 per cent of people who have land more than 30 bighas in our State. So, Sir, this is the problem of agriculture. We cannot enthrone the agriculturists, the cultivators and the tillers of the soil that we are going to give them land. I am not saying that it will not be possible for any Government to give land to everyone. Land is not something like rubber which is elastic and which can be expanded and surely, Sir, when land is once given, that cannot be increased or expanded like rubber. So we cannot go on depending on extensive forms of cultivation. Then, Sir, the question is—can we give land to the people who are actually not the tillers of the soil; can we with a class of parasite who live upon the toil of others improve the method of cultivation? It is true, Sir, certain land reforms have been carried through at least in papers, at least in Acts, but the real benefits of these legislations are still beyond the reach of those who really need the same. Take for instance, Sir, the case of Adhiars Protection Act which we have passed so many years back, and yet today, not in one district but in so many districts, we find that the Adhiars who were sought to be protected and benefited by this Act had not been really benefited. I am, Sir, not for a piece of legislation. I am for having a comprehensive system of legislation which will give land to the real cultivators where the real fruits from the land will be enjoyed by the tillers of the soil.

Sir, I come to another very important piece of legislation passed by this House, namely, the Urban Areas Tenancy Act. The people in the urban areas have still been suffering in these days and they are not getting any benefit of this Act. The Act has been so defectively framed that it has given rise to so many litigations instead of fruits to the tenancy, it has given the fruits to us, the lawyers, it has created a paradise for lawyers. I feel, Sir, unless we are bold enough to state clearly that in urban areas without reservation, that if a tenant is there for four or five years, whatever his stature of structure may be, he will not be evicted from his tenancy until he defaults in the payment of rents, otherwise the real benefits will never come to the tenants. Then, Sir, there is Ceiling on Land Holdings Act. We have put a ceiling and it has created a great psychological atmosphere in our State. I feel that today we will not allow any body to be landlords, but when we compare the existing statistics regarding land with the Bill or the Act, we find that only a

small fraction of the people will be deprived of this structure on land and even whatever land there may be, that will not bring much benefit to the people. So the whole problem of land tenure has got to be reviewed at the time of passing this Act. Although I agreed to the main principle of the Act, we oppose the fixation of ceiling at 150 bighas, because that is too big a ceiling, and this is also against the recommendation of the Planning Commission—that ceiling must not be more than three times of the economic holding. It is difficult to define what is economic holding; but even taking all factors, the improved method of cultivation and intensive forms of cultivation, we can have 15 or 20 bighas as the basic holding. Three times the basic holding, that is 60 bighas, should be the maximum area of land that a man should be allowed to hold, because we know in these days of modern scientific invention, the method of cultivation and everything has been changed. The Japanese method of cultivation is there, and there is ammonium sulphate business and other fertilisers which can enable us to raise a crop of, say, 20 maunds from a bigha of land—which yielded only 6 maunds before. So, Sir, if all these factors are taken into consideration, we think that 60 bighas of land must be the basic ceiling for Assam. As agriculture is the main source of livelihood—and where land is not enough—we consider that 60 bighas should be the basic ceiling that a man is allowed to hold. Sir, it was stated that the greatest achievement was received during the First Five-Year Plan in respect of food production, but we found that the figures were not correct, otherwise in such a short period, we would not have faced a food crisis. Whatever that may be, it is a fact that in Assam we must try to increase our food production. Here in the Budget Speech, we find that we are to achieve a production target of 8.42 lakh tons instead of 2.3 lakh tons. Sir, in our State we have to increase the production of foodgrain sufficiently so that it will enable us to have some surplus foodgrain which in turn will enable us to bring other materials which we require badly for our State from other States. Therefore, Sir, an increase in the production of foodgrain, although that may not be necessary for the State itself, is essential for two purposes, viz., to give more profitable employment to our rural population and, secondly, to give us surplus foodgrain enough to have other articles, other goods which we may require for our industrial development. Therefore, Sir, in the field of agriculture, as I have stated, we have done precious little and we cannot boast of our achievement in this field.

When we come to the field of industries, it is far worse still. In the field of industries, although we have been clamouring for so many years to have certain industries for which this State is uniquely situated, for which there are enough potential resources, yet due to our inertia we find that those industries have not developed. Capital in our State is very shy; secondly we have not got technical knowledge. We have not even the persons—the entrepreneurs—to take the initiative. Sir, can we go on allowing this state of affairs to continue in our State? We cannot, because at one stage if we cannot shift quite a sizeable portion of the population from land to other avocations of life, by land alone we cannot maintain this people. Therefore to solve the problem of agriculture we have to start industries. Sir, industries and agriculture are not two poles apart. They are complimentary to each other in the context of our economic life and when we find that the industries which should have automatically grown up in our State have not done so even to-day, the State has a responsibility to take the initiative. Here I venture to say that the State should engage in building up at least one or two industries, run it efficiently and bring it home to the people that in Assam also industries can grow and prosper. That is the only way how we can break the industrial inertia in our State and though it is told that we have already given a start for having a jute mill and a co-operative sugar mill, Sir, I am very frank to express my doubt that unless the State take active interest and actively participate in building up one or two industries at least within a span of two or three years at whatever cost, we may not be able to attract the finance, the entrepreneurs, who are not at all willing to come to our State. When we develop at least 4 or 5 industries, we can have other subsidiary industries—they will grow almost automatically, and these will in turn increase the employment potentialities. Sir, one sugar mill, one paper mill, one jute mill or a cotton textile mill may engage at most 10 to 12 thousand people, but as soon as these people are engaged, there will be effective demand for consumption of these people and they will give fillip to the growth of other industries. The multiplying factor will come into action and help in the growth of other industries. Therefore, Sir, there is a bright vista, bright future for the growth of industries in our State. For this, Sir, I submit the inertia has to be broken; we cannot remain under the mercy of capitalists; we cannot expect one Birla or some big Singhanias to come here and develop the industries. The Financial Corporation is there, the Government is there. They must co-operate and build up these industries. Sir, we have also to see that in our State we can

develop electricity profusely. We have only one 7,500 k.w. of Umtru Hydro-Electric Project, and perhaps this is the smallest project in the whole of the country, and as we have enough potential resources for developing such Hydro-Electric Projects which will bring cheap powers for the would be industries, we should immediately take up the development of these things. After all in a planned economy, priority has to be given. In a planned economy, for the present we must suffer so that we may gain in future, and to that end it is necessary that we develop it in areas where we are expecting industries to grow. We must produce cheap electrical power so that the same may attract the industrialists and we can have better industries in those areas. The transport bottle-neck is no doubt a problem, but I think in these days, if the motive power—cheap electricity,—is provided then entrepreneurs would get a fillip and even if there is some transport difficulties, they will come forward to start industries. Sir, it will not be proper to say that we are oblivious of the transport difficulties and that we do not care for the development of the transport and communication. This is no doubt the topmost problem for a State like Assam where we have a small corridor that connects Assam with the rest of India. For this geographical position also is it necessary that this region should be developed with a view to having economic self-sufficiency. Economic self-sufficiency is not growing to the extent it should, taking into consideration the potentiality that we have in our State. Sir, when I scrutinise the Budget from this aspect, I find that no attempt has been made to give such priority for solving our economic problem which is the most vital problem. Coming to the financial aspect of the Budget, I find that after the capital outlay we will be left with a closing balance of only 27 lakhs. That is a very significant factor to be taken into consideration. I also find that our deposit has been dwindling from year to year. We cannot have enough reserve and we cannot have a minus negative closing balance altogether. Our State is a bankrupt State. Therefore, Sir, we have a certain suggestion to make. Our estimated revenue shows signs of increase every year and today our revenue estimate is 2,420 lakhs. If we can tap our revenue resources exhaustively and correctly, they are bound to increase more and more. I have not the time to speak on this point in details but when we come to various items in this connection, it will be possible to see how we can further tap our revenue resources. On the expenditure side also I believe, if we can have the Estimate Committee function properly and effectively, there will be check on our expenditure. It is necessary that in a State where the closing balance is estimated to be 27 lakhs, the

expenditure is to be very thoroughly examined and it must not be allowed to be spent unnecessarily. To-day for our unsound economic position, everyone of us is to suffer. Therefore, it should be first of all our duty to scrutinise our Budget before we go to spend the money. In a State like Assam where we are 108 Members in the Assembly, we need not have a Cabinet of nine Ministers with eight Deputy Ministers and we should not have a salary of Rs.1,000 for the Ministers and about Rs.800 for Deputy Ministers. The number of Ministers and Deputy Ministers and their salary must be reduced. In our State it is also necessary to curtail the amount of tours as much as possible. Unnecessary tours of the Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officers should not be allowed. We should not have so many Committees unnecessarily. Let us go first of all for tackling our problems in our State in every possible manner. Let us be determined to build our State so that after five years we can tell the people confidently that after this period of our sacrifice and suffering, we are today in a position to give you prosperity that will loom large.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar—West): Sir I, want know from Mr. Goswami how much land he possesses.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): I do not possess a single bigha even.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA: Does he not belong to a Hindu family where charity begins at home? (*Laughter*).

Shri GURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): He belongs to a "Dayabhaga" Hindu family where the son inherits after the death of the father unlike the Mitakshara system.

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Dergaon): অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ১৯৫৭-৫৮ চনৰ যি খন বাজেট ভাষণ বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰীয়ে দাঙি ধৰিছে সেই বাজেট ভাষণৰ মই সমৰ্থন জনাইছো। আৰু কব খুজিছো যে বাজেট খন যদিও ঘাটি পৰা বাজেট হৈছে, তথাপি দেশৰ সমস্যা সমধানৰ কাৰণে বহু ক্ষেত্ৰত বাজেট ঘাটি পৰে। আজি গোটেই দেশতে অৰ্থনৈতিক সমস্যাই জুৰুৰি দি ধৰিছে। অৰ্থনৈতিক উন্নতিৰ পৰিকল্পনাৰ যোগেদিহে আমাৰ মানুহ বিলাকক আগ বঢ়াই নিব পৰা যাব। তদনুযায়ী আমাৰ ৫ বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনা সমূহ প্ৰস্তুত কৰা হৈছে। যোৱা পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিকী পৰিকল্পনাত অসমৰ বাবে ২০'১ কোটি টকা ব্যয় কৰা হৈছে। যি পৰিমাণ ব্যয় হৈছে অসমত সেই পৰিমাণৰ উন্নতি আনি দেখা নাই—।

অসমৰ শতকৰা ৮৫ জনেই খেতিয়ক, তেওঁলোকৰ উন্নতি কৰিবলৈ হলে ভূমি সমস্যাৰ সমাধানৰ ব্যৱস্থা কি কৰিব পাৰি তালৈ চাব লাগিব। এই বিষয়ে কেবাখনো আইন প্ৰণয়ন কৰা হৈছে। কিন্তু আমি দেখিবলৈ পাইছো যে আইন বোৰ ভাল বকমে কাৰ্য্যত পৰিণত হোৱা নাই। খেতিয়ক সকলক মাটি দিবৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে যদিও চেষ্টা কৰিছে, মাটি বিতৰণ কৰা কাৰ্য্যত থকত খেতিয়কে মাটি পোৱা নাই আৰু বিতৰণ কৰোঁতেও বহুত সময় লাগিছে। ইতিমধ্যে খেতিয়কৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থাও শোচনীয় হৈ পৰিছে। তেওঁলোকে পাব লগীয়া সহায়ো সময় মতে পোৱা নাই। খেতিয়কক মাটি বিতৰণ কৰা ক্ষেত্ৰত যি মধ্যস্থতা আছে সেই মধ্যস্থতা গুচাব লাগিব। তাকে কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে খেতিয়কৰ অৱস্থা উন্নত কৰা কোনো সম্ভাৱনা নাই। আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলক আগবঢ়াই নিবলৈ হলে সমবায় আন্দোলনৰ প্ৰয়োজন। এই সমবায় আন্দোলনৰ যোগেদি আমি খেতিয়ক সকলক ধান মুক্ত কৰাৰ উপৰিও অসমত কুটিৰ শিল্পৰ বহুমুখী উন্নতি সাধন কৰিব পাৰিম। দুখৰ কথা আমাৰ মানুহৰ মনত সমবায় আন্দোলনৰ প্ৰতি ভাল ধাৰণা নাই। সমবায় আন্দোলনৰ বুৰঞ্জীও সন্তোষজনক নহয়। আগতে যিবিলাক সমবায় trading company বা সমবায় সমিতি আছিল সেইবিলাক প্ৰায়েই বন্ধ হৈ গৈছে, আৰু সেইবিলাকৰ audit আজি ১৪ বছৰ ধৰিও শেষ হোৱা নাই। এনে অৱস্থাত আমাৰ খেতিয়ক বাহিৰে উন্নতি পথত আগ বাঢ়িব নোৱাৰে। আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলৰ অৱস্থা একেবাৰে শোচনীয়। এই খেতিয়ক সকলক আগবঢ়াই নিবলৈ হলে এটা স্বস্থ সমবায় আন্দোলনৰ প্ৰতিস্থা কৰিব লাগিব। এই সমবায়ৰ সহায়েৰে তেওঁলোকক মাটি-বাৰী দি পূৰ্বৰ ধাৰণাৰ পৰা মুক্ত কৰি তেওঁলোকৰ অৰ্থসঙ্কট দূৰ কৰিব পৰা হব।

সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ চাবলগীয়া হৈছে যে কেনেকৈ আমাৰ গাঁৱে ভূঞা সমবায় আন্দোলনটো জগাই গোটেই অসমতে কুটিৰ শিল্প আৰু কৃষিৰ উন্নতি কৰিব পাৰি তাৰহে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লগীয়া হৈছে। কিন্তু কথা হ'ল এই সমবায় আন্দোলন সমূহে সকলো মানুহৰ মনত এটা ভুল ধাৰণা সোমায় আছে। কিয়নো আগতে সমবায় আন্দোলনৰ জৰিয়তে যিবিলাক সমবায় সমিতি গঠন কৰা হৈছিল সেইবিলাক এতিয়া বন্ধ হৈ গৈছে। তাৰ ফলত বহুতো মানুহৰ টকা পইচা অৰাবতে বন্ধ হৈ পৰি আছে। সেইবিলাকৰ Audit আজি ১৪-১৫ বছৰে শেষ হোৱা নাই। সেই লোকসকলৰ দেনা পাওনা বোৰৰ এটা স্তমীমাংসা যদি প্ৰথমতে কৰা নহয় তেন্তে সমবায় প্ৰতি মানুহৰ বিশ্বাস ঘুৰাই অনা টান হব। সেই কাৰণে মই কওঁ যে, সেই পুৰণা সমবায় সমিতি বিলাকৰ দেনা পাওনা বিলাকৰ বিষয়ে আগতে এটা সীমাংসা কৰি মানুহৰ মনত বন্ধনূল হৈ থকা সন্দেহটো দূৰ কৰিব লাগিব। তেতিয়াহে আমি এই সমবায় যোগেদি ৰাজ্যৰ কুটিৰ শিল্প আৰু কৃষিৰ উন্নতি সাধন কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হম।

তাৰ পিচত পঞ্চায়ত বিলাক স্থাপিত কৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্য হল সেইবিলাক অনুষ্ঠানৰ যোগেৰে গাঁৱভূইৰ উন্নতি কৰা আৰু ক্ষমতা বেকেন্দ্ৰীভূত কৰা। আমাৰ গাঁৱৰ যাবতীয় সমস্যা বিলাক যাতে পঞ্চায়তৰ যোগেদি সমাধান কৰিব পৰা হয় তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। বৰ্তমানে গাঁৱলীয়া পঞ্চায়ত বিলাকে অকল আলি-পদুলি নাদ-পুখুৰীতে আৱদ্ধ হৈ আছে। Planning Commission ৰ মতে গাঁৱলীয়া মাটি-বাৰী আদি বিতৰণৰ ভাৰো দি পঞ্চায়তে যাতে গাঁৱৰ সৰ্ব্বজনীন উন্নতি কৰাত চৰকাৰক সহায় কৰিব পাৰে আৰু ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

সেই মৰ্মে আজি পঞ্চায়তক বৰ্তমানতকৈ বেচি ক্ষমতা দিয়া দৰকাৰ। গতিকে পঞ্চায়তে যাতে গাঁৱৰ সকলো উন্নতিৰ ভাৰ পায় তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

বৰ্তমান পঞ্চায়ত বিলাক যি নীতিৰ ওপৰত ভেটি কৰি চলিছে তাতো কিছু বেমেজালী ঘটিছে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে ক'ব পাৰি যে আগৰ প্ৰাইমাৰী পঞ্চায়তৰ সম্পাদকে ২৫১ টকা পায়, আৰু বৰ্তমান পঞ্চায়তৰ যি চেফ্টাৰী তেওঁক ৫০১ টকাকৈ দিয়া হয়। এই বিলাক নানা খেলিমেলিৰ এটা স্ত্ৰীমাংসা কৰিব লাগে। পঞ্চায়তৰ এই লোকসকল চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰীও নহয় আৰু বোধকৰো অৰ্দ্ধ চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰীহে। এই বিলাক সোনকালে নীমাংসা নকৰিলে আমি পঞ্চায়তৰ পৰা যি কামৰ আশা কৰিছো সেইটো নাপায়।

তাৰ পিচত, পঞ্চায়তে উন্নয়নৰ বিষয়লৈ কাম কৰে সেই বিলাকৰ তহাবধান কৰিবলৈ একোজন Technician ৰ বিশেষ দৰকাৰ। যাতে তেওঁলোকে একোজন Technician পায় তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।

গাঁও অঞ্চলত যি বিলাক পাব্লিক হেল্থৰ ডাক্তাৰ খানা আছে সেই বিলাকে নিয়মিত ভাবে গাৱলীয়া বাইজক বেমাৰৰ চিকিৎসা কৰিব নোৱাৰে; কিয়নো তেওঁলোকৰ দৰকাৰী টকা-পইচা আৰু ঔষধ-পাতি নাই। গতিকে যি বিলাক ডাক্তাৰখানা গাৱে-ভূঞা দিয়া হৈছে তাত নিয়মমতে ঔষধ-পাতি যদি দিয়া নহয় তাৰ পৰা জনসাধাৰণৰ কোনো উপকাৰ নহয়।

ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও আমি দেখিছো যে ভৈয়ামৰ ট্ৰাইবেল সকলৰ কাৰণে বহু টকা চৰকাৰে বছৰি খৰচ কৰি আহিছে। সেই টকা বিলাক সমভাবে সকলো ট্ৰাইবেল অঞ্চলতে খৰচ হোৱা নাই যেন লাগে। আমাৰ কমাৰ গাঁও অঞ্চলত ঠেঙ্গাল কাছাৰী আদি ট্ৰাইবেলৰ বসবাস। সেই ঠাইৰ আন উন্নয়নৰ কথাৰে নকও চিকিৎসাবো সুবন্দোবস্ত নাই। তাত ভাল হস্পিটাল এখন যদি সোনকালে দিয়া নহয় সেই লোক সকলৰ চিকিৎসাৰ কোনো সুবিধা নহয়।

আজি কালি Relief ৰ কাৰণে টকা ধৰা হয়। কোনো এখন ঠাইত কোনো মানুহক যেতিয়া সাহায্য দিবলগীয়া হয়, সেই সাহায্যৰ টকা যদি সেই স্থানীয় ডিপুটি কমিছনাৰ বা চৰভিভিশ্যনাল অফিচাৰৰ হাতত নাথাকে তেন্তে বহু সময়ত বৰ অসুবিধা হয়। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কও যে এজন গাৱলীয়া শিক্ষকৰ ঘৰ দুৱাৰ পুৰিলে। স্থানীয় কৰ্তৃপক্ষৰ হাতত তেনে সাহায্যৰ একো সন্মল নাই বুলি টকা পইচা একো দিব নোৱাৰিলে। গাৱৰ মানুহৰ পৰা বৰঙনী তুলিছে কোনোমতে তেওঁক এটা ঘৰ বান্ধি দিয়া হল। গতিকে স্থানীয় কৰ্তৃপক্ষৰ হাতত কিছ টকা থকা নিতান্ত দৰকাৰ।

এইটো সুখৰ কথা হৈছে যে কুটিৰ শিল্পৰ যোগেদি ৰাজ্য আগবাঢ়াই নিব খুজিছে তাৰ কাৰণে ঠায়ে ঠায়ে কিছুমান বয়ন বিদ্যালয় হৈছে। সেই বিলাকলৈ পিচপৰা ঠাইৰ মহিলাসকল ভাল ৰাস্তাঘাটৰ অভাৱত আহিব নোৱাৰে। সেই বিলাক ঠাইত যাতে ভাল ৰাস্তা ঘাট তৈয়াৰ হয় তাৰো যত্ন ল'ব লাগে।

মোটৰ ওপৰত আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ কুটিৰ শিল্পই উন্নয়নৰ প্ৰধান অঙ্গ। এনে অত্যা-বশ্যকীয় বিষয়টোত গুৰুত্ব আৰোপ কৰিব বুলি মই আশা কৰো।

বহু সময়ত বিভাগীয় নিয়মানুবৃত্তিতা আৰু মন্থৰ গতিৰে কৰা কাৰ্য্যৰ কাৰণে সমবায় শিল্পানুষ্ঠান সুবিধা মতে গঢ়ি নুঠে। সমবায় খুলিবলৈ মাটি লাগে—বহুতে সময়ত মাটি নাপায়, বেজিষ্টাৰ কৰিব লাগে তাৰ কাৰণে হয়তো বতৰ পাৰ হৈ যায়।

অজি যিটো চেনীৰ কল খোলা হৈছে তাত কিছুমান ক্ষেত্ৰত দেখিবলৈ পোৱা যায় বিশেষকৈ, মানিৰ বিষয়ত বৰ বেচিকৈ ঘূৰা-ঘূৰি কৰিব লগা হৈছে। তাৰ কাৰণে টকা পয়চাৰ যোগান সমস্যাৰ যোগেদিয়েই কৰিব লগা হৈছে। বিবোৰ কমিটি গঠন কৰা হৈছে কাৰ্যত কুহিয়াৰ খেতি কৰাবৰ বাবে সেইবোৰে সময়মতে খেতি কৰিব পৰা নাই।

এনে ধৰণে কামকোৱৰ দৰি হ'ব তাৰ প্ৰধান কাৰণ হ'ব গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ বিভিন্ন বিভাগৰ মাজত প্ৰতি বিভাগৰ Co-ordination ন পকাৰ কাৰণে। প্ৰতি বিভাগৰ বাবে আ-বিভাগৰ সৰহ ক্ষতিৰ লাগে যিটোৰ বাবে গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট কামকোৱা সোনকালে হ'ব পাৰে।

Shri HEM CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY (Katigora):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for presenting the Budget for the year 1957-58, in which he tried to lay before the House a vivid financial picture of the State of Assam. He did not hesitate in showing both the dark and the bright sides of the problems and the steps the Government of Assam are taking for solving the various problems of our State. Sir, our State's resources are so limit that there is very little scope, as we find from the Budget speech of the Finance Minister that he won't be in a position to augment the revenue of our State. Be that what it might be, Sir, we are very grateful to the Finance Minister that he has not imposed any further tax, the pressure of which has already been very heavy on the poorer section of the people and which have gone beyond the paying capacity of the general public of the State. In connection with particular problems, I would first like to draw the attention of the Government to one foremost factor that is, refugee, problem. We have found in the speech of the Finance Minister that the number of refugees in the State is more than 4,86,000. Of this total number, I would not be wrong if I say, Sir, that more than half the number of these refugees are in Cachar. The population of Cachar is already very high, and more than half the total area of Cachar is covered by either tea gardens or hills and Tillas and the rest, which is available for habitation, is densely populated and as the pressure on land in Cachar has already been very heavy, it has become almost impossible to accommodate such large number of refugees on land alone. I, therefore, draw the pointed attention of the Government to see how best this refugee problem could be solved. I am definite, when those people who have lost their hearth and home and their land in their native villages, and had to leave them for no fault of theirs due to the partition of the country, we can make an all-out effort to see them well rehabilitated. The resources of our Government is very limited, and it is very difficult for our Government to tackle this problem: but then we shall have to solve this mighty problem. In order

to solve this problem, all sections of the people of the State of Assam shall have to join together in bringing about a healthier solution of this difficult problem. Therefore, I suggest, in order to solve this problem, we shall have to establish industries, when distribution of land alone would not be sufficient for an effective approach to solve this problem. If we could establish industries, then we will be able to absorb a large number of unemployed refugee young men as well as local people. I have seen in the speech of our Finance Minister where he mentioned that it is the declared policy of the Government of India to develop simultaneously the undeveloped regions in the country". I only take the opportunity of repeating that along with the development of the different parts of Assam, Cachar is also developed which is in the extreme corner of the State and linked up with the rest of our State with only a very slender communication line, that is the Hill Section, which also goes out of communication on various occasions during the rainy season almost every year. The attention of the Railway Ministry of the Central Government should be drawn by our Government so that this slender railway line of communication be improved, for that is the only life line of communication of Cachar with Assam.

Sir, I am glad that our Transport Department has taken up some new lines for running the State Transport buses. I hope our Government while taking more lines in the near future will take some lines in Cachar also.

The construction of the Jowai-Badarpur Road was taken up in the year 1951 and it is now 1957—the said road was not completed on the 14th of April last. I happened to pass by that road, I was very much surprised to find that hundreds of small bridges and culverts have not yet been completed. I am thanking the Public Works Department for the nice alignment and gradation that they have made in this road. But what purpose such nice alignment and gradation will serve when the bridges and the culverts are not yet completed and in the eventuality of stoppage of the Hill section, the people of Cachar are cutoff from the rest of Assam? So, Sir, I would request our Public Works Department Minister to take up completion of the bridges and the culverts as early as possible.

I now come to one vital problem of the Katigora constituency. There is a "Khal" named Kakrakhal, which was dug out by the planter of Kalain Tea Estate to drain out the water of the tea estate. It has become the main outlet now and as

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a result the original Kalain river has been silted up. This has created a great havoc in the western Katigora area where three-fourths of the population live. In this Kakrakhal there is so much water every year that with a little rain the entire western Katigora area goes under water—I mean the area to the western side of the railway line which is better known as Gumra where a large number of refugees have also been rehabilitated. We took the Central Minister, Shri A. P. Jain, when he was in charge of Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India, when he paid a kind visit to Cachar to that area and he himself saw the havoc that was being wrought by the water of Kakrakhal. Thereafter, we took the Public Works Department Minister, Assam, and he also visited the area. He saw the difficulties of the people who live in that area and kindly agreed to put a Bund and also a sluice-gate in that 'Khal'. But nothing has yet been done in that direction. Sir, I hope that our Government, when they are spending so much money for improvement of the lot of the people, would be coming forward for spending a very small sum in putting a Bund and a sluice-gate in Kakrakhal which will not only benefit the villagers but also the refugees who are in large number living in that area, and will also be a source of permanant help to these helpless people, I mean the refugees for their proper rehabilitation.

Sir, I am thanking our Hon. Finance Minister for his frank assertions that he is sad while trying to find out funds for implementing our exchequer as our resources have become rigid and static. Yesterday we have discussed this point in connection with the location of the oil refinery here in Assam, and the entire House was at one in expressing their views regarding the location of this refinery in Assam. I too join with all my Freinds in this House on that point and I would further stress that unless some heavy industries are established, especially this oil refinery is located in Assam, there will be little scope for augmenting the revenue of our State.

Sir, our Finance Minister has budgeted the largest percentage of expenditure on education and we are thankful to him for that. I hope the people of Cachar will be getting a larger share on that account and the only Girls School at Silchar will be provincialised this time from the funds that have been allotted by our Hon. Finance Minister for expenditure on education. The first grade college in our district, I mean the Guru Charan College, is also suffering a lot for financial difficulties. It is no secret, Sir, that this

college has got a handsome amount from the Relief and Rehabilitation Department, but it is not sufficient for completing the projects that have been taken up by this college for its improvement. Even now we have not been able, Sir, to have a common room for our girl students whose number has gone up by more than 100 in the Guru Charan College. I hope our Government will be taking special steps for allotting funds for the amenities that are going to be granted for our girl students of Cachar. Then, Sir, there is another institution known as Model Tol. It was established about 31 years back and it has been rendering nice help to those who are willing to take up Sanskrit as their branch of education. For its development this institution is trying very hard to impart this kind of education, I mean Sanskrit, to the people. I hope our Government will also see that due encouragement is given to Sanskrit education along with Muslim education.

Sir, I am glad that a lot of help is being given to the Medical Department, but Ayurvedic has not got its due share. I hope our Finance Minister who places much reliance in Ayurvedic system of medicine will be taking keen interest in this so that this indigenous method of treatment gets encouragement and this will also help solve the unemployment problem and the people in the remotest corner in the villages will get medical amenities. Sir, I am not going to take much time of the House, but before I resume my seat, I again thank the Hon. Finance Minister for not taxing the people any further because they are already over taxed.

Shri PRABHATNARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak. I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his presentation of the Budget before the House where he has frankly admitted about shortcomings. Of course he has not given any definite suggestion in that regard as to how to remove them. Sir, the Budget speaks of decentralisation of units, but there is a centralisation in the Budget as will be seen. Sir, I want to speak on the time-lag in the matter of provision of funds. Sir, when there is provision in the Budget and this provision is communicated to the administrative department, it takes a lot of time to utilise that provision. And also when the administrative department calls for proposals, for instance on medical grant for high price of medicines, etc., that communication goes from the administrative department to the departmental head or to the districts, say in September or October, and then the proposal

gets through, say in November or December, and again this proposal goes back from the administrative department to the Finance Department for final sanction. So in this way it takes a lot of time for distribution of money available for educational, medical or other institutions. In most cases the money for actual utilisation by any particular Department gets there in March and it means a lot of difficulties when grants, both recurring and non-recurring and particularly non-recurring grants, reach the allottees just before March when the year is almost out. At the same time, there is always one condition required in connection with this utilisation of funds and that is: that there should always be a utilisation certificate to the effect that the money has been properly and timely spent and for the purpose for which it was given. So, Sir, my suggestion to remove this anomaly is that the Administrative Department may perhaps be given a general authority to utilise the allotted funds in order to save time and to make the money available to the allottees in time.

Sir, regarding the First Five-Year Plan, the less said the better. I remember once Homa, the humorist, said why this Five-Year Plan was called so, because it took us five years to prepare the Plan. Here in Assam we have a different idea, that is, it takes us five years to understand what is there in the First Five-Year Plan. So also, the less said for the Second Five-Year Plan the better, because the First Five-Year Plan was a failure in Assam—it cannot attract the people nor can it give any benefit to them. The Second Five-Year Plan also is a disappointing one so far as Assam is concerned because it does not provide for any multi-purpose scheme, river valley project or even the much talked of Brahmaputra bridge, or doubling of the railway lines or strengthening of the rail link and so on. Perhaps we have failed to impress upon the Central Government about our bare necessities without which we cannot go ahead. I particularly mention about the Brahmaputra bridge, Sir, because this bridge is necessary not only in the interest of Assam alone but in the interest of the whole country, and we ought to have got this bridge long ago. As a matter of fact during war time, the Government of India proposed to have this bridge constructed and materials were collected for the purpose but I understand that cargo carrying materials were sunk in Arabian Sea or somewhere else. Even now after the advancement of time—after six years of the Plan period—there is no definite proposal of having a bridge over the Brahmaputra.

Sir, much has been said about the distribution of lands, tenure system, etc., by my hon. Friends, Mr. Goswami and Mr. Bhattacharyya. It is seen that in the Land Ceiling Act there is no provision for suitable distribution of land. This is also the case in the Zamindari Abolition Act. The land problem has become distressing and acute in all parts of Assam. In this connection, I speak of Kamrup district. The census of 1951 showed that the population has become double than that of the census of 1941. It was 7 lakhs and it became 14 lakhs odd, and if my information is correct, the population figure has risen now to seventeen lakhs. In the census report it is said that the most thickly populated area is around Nalbari where the density of population is as high as can be found everywhere else in a purely agricultural country of the world, but, Sir, to solve this problem nothing has been taken up by Government. I want to point out to a few Mauzas of which I mention the name of Uparbarbhag which has an area of 23.6 square miles with a population of 39,000 that about 1,700 to a square mile. Next comes Bahjani, Pokowa, Dharmapur, Khata Mauzas where also the population is 1,500, 1,400, 1,400 and 1,200 respectively to a square mile. These figures are astonishing not only for Assam, but for the whole of India, that no special measures have been taken for the last so many years to ameliorate the grievances of these people. In Uparbarbhag Mauza the land for an average person, after deducting the areas occupied by rivers, Bunds and roads, comes to about 7 to 8 Lessas, as against the economic holding fixed by our Government at 5 bighas per person and 30 bighas for a family of six. Is it not very distressing? I would draw the pointed attention of the Government to solve this acute problem. It is for this very reason perhaps people in some areas live on one meal a day.

Even there are cases in which people get one meal for three meals. This acute state of food problem is there for many years in some of the villages, such as, Dokoha, Barbukia, Barsimalia and Dingdingi, which are inhabited by Scheduled Caste people. There are also two more villages, namely, Jaha and Charia having the same state of affairs. I hope, Government will take some visible measures so that these people can be settled elsewhere as the food problem is mainly responsible for want of land. When these people approached Ministers, they advised them to start co-operative Krishi farms. The Finance Minister said that in the State there are about 120 Co-operative Krishi Farms, but, I think, 5 per cent, of them are not working. In my place there are 5 such farms but they are not functioning for want of land as well as for want of money for purchase of

materials and seeds. As this problem of land is getting bad to worse day by day, Government should try to solve it. If it is said that lands are not available to settle so much people, we should give them alternative employment by introducing industries. As you know, Sir, unemployment question is very acute in our State as has already been said by some of my hon. Friends but it is most acute in my place, *i.e.*, Nalbari area. There are some villages where there are not less than 300 unemployed youths, who read from Middle English to Matric standard. If an average figure is taken of unemployed of educated youths there will be, in Nalbari area, not less than 15,000, and the figures will be much more higher in the case of uneducated unemployed people. To solve this problem, some industrial measures should be undertaken. We find that some industrial schools have been taken up but for the youths who are trained there practically there is no measure for their employment. I know that there are 4 or 5 students in my locality who have passed out of these schools but they are sitting idle for want of employment. There ought to have been some opening for practical training—that is also wanting. I am glad to say that Government have started, at Gauhati, an Industrial Institute but, I hope, this will not have the same fate as the Gauhati Refugee Market. This Industrial Institute ought to have been started in a place where the unemployment is most acute in order to attract students and also to help solve the unemployment problem.

In order to give employment to the unemployed, Government ought to have started training-*cum*-production centres, which have been started in other States in India. I understand, here in Assam, some such centres have been started but the number is very small. I believe that before it is too late to solve this problem of unemployment, especially, in my locality, there should be training-*cum*-production centres and some industrial centres.

Then, Sir, I come to Community Development and National Extension Blocks. Approach of the Assam Government in this respect is quite different. The original idea to start such National Extension Service and Community Development Blocks is to give stimulus to the people where there is enthusiasm from beneath like that of Nilokheri and Sonpat. This is very important in Community Development and National Extension Service Blocks but in our State it is quite different. I find none of such block has been started in Nalbari area but, I think, in it large number of industries should have been reorganised. There were many industries, such as,

sericulture, weaving, etc., but these are in a moribund state for want of help and subsidy from Government. These industries should be reorganised giving necessary help from Government.

Then about co-operative industrial societies. There are many such at Nalbari. As far as my information goes, there are about 15 but none, except one at Belsor, is getting sufficient help. The industrial institutes are suffering for want of raw materials and there is also no proper market for the sale of the finished articles. I hope Government will see their way to make proper arrangement for the supply of raw materials to the industrial institutes and for purchase of finished goods. Again, Sir, I like to mention about the case of Nalbari Japi Co-operative, Ltd. Sir, this particular institute has actually brought glory to Assam. It has been producing the best materials and novelties which are not only sold in Assam but the finished articles of this particular society have been supplied to the other emporium stores in Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay, Madras and other places. But in spite of all these things, I don't know why Government feel shy to give adequate help to this society. I hope Government will give due consideration to this particular Society at Nalbari and grant such financial help to it so that it may bring more laurels to the Government of Assam.

About Medical and Public Health, I have nothing to say elaborately, but one particular thing I want to bring to the notice of Medical Minister. This is about the Nalbari Hospital. Medical Minister, Deputy Minister, Medical, and the Director of Health Services paid visits to this hospital and all of them promised that Government would take over this hospital. But only four beds and a skeleton staff have been taken, leaving 14 beds and many quarters of the staff. The great calamity is that instead of taking over the hospital, even the grant that was given last year has been withdrawn. The staff is going without pay for the last 7 months and 14 beds are maintained on credit. This hospital contains a 12-bedded indoor hospital and 5-bedded maternity ward started with public contribution. I hope, the Medical Minister will see that the remaining part of the hospital is taken immediately.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a general reply will be given by my Friend, the Finance Minister, but it will be desirable on my part also to give certain informations to some specific points raised by some of my Friends relating to Medical and Public Health and Forest Departments.

Sir, in to-day's discussions I find that little reference has been made so far the Forest, Medical and Public Health Departments are concerned. At the beginning, my Friend from Gauripur, Shri Barua, referred to the sad plight of the tribal timber contractors as a result of partition of the country, because before partition these tribal contractors used to have their markets in Pakistan where they used to sell the timbers especially in the form of logs. Sir, I admit that the plight of these tribal contractors, specially in this particular constituency, is really very deplorable.

Now regarding Parbatjoar which my Friend has mentioned, I like to say for the information of the House that this was really a big portion of the Zamindari forest. After the abolition of the Zamindari system we have taken over this big portion of forest and I have already instructed the Conservator of Forests and the Divisional Forest Officer to survey the area and also to make certain blocks after marking of the trees and give due consideration to the tribal contractors, because these tribal contractors happen to belong to the poor and backward communities, such as Boro Cachari, Rabha, Garo and others. Sir, many of these tribal contractors came to me and I have assured them that it is the policy of the Government to safeguard their interests. Sir, I am looking into the matter and I have already passed order that certain coupes should be kept reserved for these tribal contractors in order to help them in timber business which was practically dying out there. Again, Sir, my Friend has mentioned about the backwardness in communication in the forest areas—that is true. But I may inform the House that we have already certain road schemes for the forest areas. Timber operation generally is started by November because due to lack of communication in the forest areas, practically no work is being done in the forest areas during the monsoon. In this connection, I may inform the House so far the road connecting Bhutan State through forests is concerned, the Public Works Department has already sanctioned the road from Bismuri to Saralpara, just on the border of Bhutan State.

The construction of this road will be taken up as early as possible and as soon as this road is completed, we are sure that trade and commerce will open between Assam and the Bhutan State ; plenty of chillies, oranges, and other commodities will come from the Bhutan State to Assam. With regard to other roads inside the forest, we are going to improve them because we shall need the roads for the extraction of timbers.

Now coming to medical, my Friend from Dergoan, Shri Sarma, said that for want of adequate funds the Public Health Dispensaries are not properly developed or improved. Sir, I admit that we require more funds to improve and develop the Public Health Dispensaries. When these Public Health Dispensaries were first started, they were of temporary structure with the idea of giving temporary relief to the people suffering from *kala-azar*. Now, after independence of India, we have taken up the matter and we have decided to improve the condition of these Public Health Dispensaries, and for this reason every year we are making provision for the development of these temporary structures by permanent structures. My Friend, Shri Sarma, has specifically mentioned the case of Kamargaon Dispensary, saying that there are Kacharis and other backward communities at Kamargaon. My Friend met me and I had already discussed the matter and I had given him an assurance that at the time of distribution of grants under Article 275, certainly the case of Kamargaon Dispensary will be given due consideration.

Now, my Friend, Shri Chakravarty, has nothing to say about the Medical Department, perhaps he is satisfied with all our activities. I am glad that my Friend has strongly supported the steps already taken by the Government.

For the development of the Ayurvedic system of medicine, my Friend is quite correct when he says that our present Finance Minister has special liking for this system of medicine. As a matter of fact, I had already some discussion with him. We are thinking in what best way we can bring out a scheme for the further development of this system of Ayurvedic medicine and treatment. As the hon. Members know, we are going to upgrade the present Ayurvedic College, by shifting it to a better place where we are going to build up a herbarium, administrative bloc, hostels, maternity ward and some of these buildings are nearing completion. So it appears with the help of our esteemed colleague, the Finance Minister, it will be possible for me to draw up a scheme in this direction and I hope there will be no difficulty to get the necessary Financial help from the Finance Department.

Now, Sir, coming to the yesterday's speech of Dr. Srihari Das who, being a man of the medical profession, practically confined his speech to matters relating to Public Health and Medical Departments. I would inform the House that with regard to the question of B. C. G. (Dr. Das said there was no mention of it in the Budget speech), we have a provision in our State Budget in this direction. Unlike other States there

was no opposition from the people in our State. Everywhere the response was spontaneous; they are quite willing to have the vaccination, and I may inform the House that from the beginning of 1949 upto March 1957, the cases tested were 24, 59, 614 and number of cases where the B. C. G. vaccination were given was 10, 81, 121. For the implementation of this scheme we have, in this campaign, as many as four teams and we are having another team. So, altogether there will be five teams. These teams are working in different parts of the State. Our idea is to cover the whole of Assam within the next five years. For this purpose we have been provided with medicine and transport from the Government of India. In this respect, we are taking necessary steps, Sir.

Dr. Das has made certain reference to X-ray plant at Barpeta—that it was not functioning properly. Sir, it may be a fact, but I shall see that it functions properly. He made a reference to the T. B. Ward in the Gauhati Civil Hospital also. I do not know whether the hon. Member knows that we have decided to shift this Ward to the side of the Lokopriya Bordoloi Hospital at Gauhati where the number of bed will be increased. It is going to be done very soon.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta): May I know, Sir, whether it will be a hospital or it will be an observatory ward attached to the Lokopriya Bordoloi T. B. Hospital?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): Sir, it will be attached to the Loko Priya Bordoloi T. B. Hospital. We have got money from the Tribal Areas Department also in this connection. Of course non-tribals will also be taken in.

Srimati JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): On a point of information, Sir, our Medical Minister said that Shri Chakravarty has not said anything regarding Medical Department, so far as the district of Cachar is concerned.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I am coming to this. My Friend, Mrs. Chanda, has said something about the Civil Hospital at Silchar. On this point I can say, Sir, we have got a general programme for the improvement and development of the district Civil Hospitals. We have got money for it and we shall proceed according to our plan and necessary improvement and development will be made in case of Silchar Civil Hospital also.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): I have also mentioned about the T. B. Ward. There are no staff and no equipment for this Ward. I have mentioned about the Narishikshasram also.

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister. Medical): So far as I remember, there was a provision of Rs.20,000 for this institute.

Srimati JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): That was kept as a grant for making the building.

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA: Sir, I shall look into this. I can assure her that I shall consider all the points raised by her, in her speech.

Now, Sir, the other day certain specific points were raised by some of my Friends from North Kamrup, Shri Surendra Nath Das and Shri Birendra Kumar Das, regarding *kala-azar* and leprosy in the northern part of the district of Kamrup. Sir, for the information of the hon. Members, I may state that although it is a fact that *kala-azar* and leprosy are endemic in the tribal areas, within the jurisdiction of the Civil Hospitals and the Local Board Hospitals, the Medical Officers in charge have been instructed to undertake regular surveys within their respective jurisdiction. But I inform the hon. Members that no report about the increase in the incidence of *kala-azar* and leprosy in the northern part of Kamrup district has so far been received. Sporadic leprosy cases also exist due to unhygienic condition of these areas. Sir, in order to afford medical facilities, three new Public Health Dispensaries at Nikachi (off Mussalpur), Tarabari and Kalgachia have been sanctioned by Government during 1956-57. Besides these the Medical Department is also establishing in Northern Kamrup one new dispensary (under Article 275) at Subankhata, six Primary Health Units at Sualkuchi, Domdoma, Golagaon, Nalbari, North Gauhati and Nowgaon.

There are at present 4 Public Health Dispensaries in Mikir Hills, viz.,—Dolamara, Baithalangu, Dengaon and Kolonga. Further to these, one Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Gunjung has been sanctioned by Government during 1956-57 (under Article 275). The Baithalangu Dispensary is also being converted into a Primary Health Unit

with facilities for indoor ward. There is also a proposal (now under consideration of Government) for establishment of a dispensary at Lumding or Sarulangphar, during 1957-58. The Ganjung State Dispensary is also being converted into a Primary Health Unit by the Medical Department.

Shri HAMDHON MOHAN HAPLANGBAR [North Cachar Hills (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Sir, there is no doctor at Ganjung Hospital.

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) : Sir, I shall see that a doctor is sent there.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) : Sir, I was just giving some replies to the points raised by my Friends from Mikir and North Cachar Hills District. My Friends, Shri Sai Sai Terang, stated that there is a dispensary at Dalmara which is situated on the border of the Mikir Hills and that this dispensary should be shifted to the Mikir Hills District. This dispensary is at present situated on the roadside and actually in Golaghat Subdivision. Previously, it was situated at Melasipathar. The question of its shifting to interior places in Mikir Hills will be examined at the time of sanctioning reconstruction of buildings of this dispensary. This dispensary has now got two leprosy out centres under it. It is a fact that leprosy cases are there in the Mikir Hills and on an intensive survey carried out by the Special Leprosy Officer in November, 1956 it was found that there were cases to the extent of 1,471. These cases were detected during the survey. Of these cases, 446 cases were leprematous and 1025 non-infectious. Due to the high incidence of leprosy cases in Mikir Hills, a scheme for establishment of colonies at Phulani and Dalamara is receiving consideration of this Government. Sir, I admit that the incidence of leprosy cases is very high in the areas predominantly inhabited by the tribal people due to their habits and living conditions. We have already sanctioned an amount for a survey party to make

survey of these leprosy cases in both south and north banks of the Brahmaputra. This survey party consists of two doctors and other necessary staff. According to our leprosy scheme with the assistance of the Central Government, we have opened one subsidiary centre for leprosy treatment in the District of Goalpara at Dotoma, a plains tribal area where the incidence of leprosy is very high. In this matter we are proceeding according to our plan and schemes we have adopted, keeping in view of the situation.

So far as *kala-azar* is concerned, I like to inform the House that we have opened new *kala-azar* wards at different areas where the incidence is very high, particularly in the Districts of Nowgong and Goalpara. In this connection, Sir, we have taken all necessary steps.

My Friend from Golakganj made mention of a maternity centre at Golakganj. We have already taken steps to provide the necessary staff, that is, a midwife and a Dhai, for that centre.

My Friend from Udarband stated, as far as I remember, that there was only one dispensary in his locality and so he wants an Ayurvedic dispensary there. That matter will be looked into duly. I may inform the hon. Member that for a place, probably, Harinagar, just near his constituency, we have sanctioned one Ayurvedic dispensary already.

My Friend, Shri Biswadev Sarma, drew my pointed attention to the present condition of the forest villagers there in his area. We have got a scheme for the improvement of those forest villagers also. The total amount planned to be spent during the Second Five-Year Plan for items of work specifically for the benefit of forest villagers is about Rs.2,03,000 for villages of Plains Tribal Areas and an equal amount for villages located outside Tribal Areas in the Plains Districts. There are about 400 forest villages in the State and so far as I remember there are only about a dozen of forest villages in the area referred to by my Friend. In that particular area also we have taken some steps for the development of those forest villages. In the year 1956-57 in the Darrang District, the following works were undertaken:—

Roads—Rs.4,000 was spent for the new construction of two miles of road to connect the Dharikati Miri Forest village with an existing Forest road and thus provide communication

facilities for this village with Charduar and Tezpur. Rupees 9,415 was spent for new construction of four miles of road from the Selaikati Mikir Village to connect this village via an existing forest with Diplonga and with Sootea on the North Trunk Road.

Wells—For supply of water one ring-well was constructed in the following five forest villages of the Darrang District at an estimated cost of Rs.3,188.

Thus the total expenditure in 1956-57 in the Darrang District has been Rs.16,605. As the district has got only about a dozen forest villages, the expenditure per village in one year has been above the average per village programme during the five year period. This is because a number of villages are fairly recent and did not have even elementary amenities.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): What about my point regarding Gohpur Mouza ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): I have not the figures exactly with me at the moment. I may supply them later. I am speaking about the entire Darrang division—that includes Gohpur, I think.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : No.

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA : Any way, I will look into it.

Dharikhathi Forest Village in Balipara Reserve	1	well
Belsiri Forest Village in Charduar Reserve	...	1 „
Ouguri Forest Village in Gohpur Reserve	...	1 „
Balijan Forest Village in Gohpur Reserve	..	1 „
Rangajan Forest Village in Gohpur Reserve	...	1 „
Total	...	5 wells

So, Sir, it appears from what I have said that we have taken steps for the improvement and development of our forest villages. The hon. Member has raised an important question in this connection that the facilities and advantages now offered to people living within Panchayat areas are not extended to the

forest villages. I do not exactly know at the moment what is the position, but I do feel that these amenities should also be extended to the villagers living in the forest reserves. We have some difficulty in the matter. There are certain rules and regulations by which these forest villages are maintained. If it does not interfere with these rules and regulations of the Forest Department certainly all these facilities will be extended to the forest villages.

Next, I come to the speech delivered by my Friend, Srimati Padma Kumari Gohain. I think it would be better if I speak in Assamese.

এতিয়া আমাৰ শৃদ্ধেয়া শ্ৰীমতী পদ্মকুমাৰী গৌহায়ে বাজেট আলোচনা সম্পৰ্কে দিয়া ভাষণ সম্বন্ধে দুআঘাবমান কথা ক'ব খুজিছোঁ। তেখেতে কৈছে যে অতি অলপ সময়ৰ ভিতৰতে আমাৰ মেডিকেল আৰু পাৰিষিক্ হেলথ ডিপাৰ্টমেণ্টে শিক্ষিত ডাক্তৰ, নাৰ্চ আদিৰ অভাৱ স্বত্বেও যিখিনি কাম কৰিছে তাত তেখেতে সন্তোষ প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে। আজি যে কিছু মাত্ৰাত হলেও এটা অভাৱ পূৰণ কৰিব পাৰিছোঁ সেই কাৰণে মইও সন্তোষ পাইছোঁ। বিশেষকৈ তেখেতে মেডিকেল কলেজ সম্পৰ্কে কৈছে যে ভাৰতৰ বিভিন্ন ঠাইৰ পৰা বিশেষজ্ঞ বিলাক জ্ঞানিব লগীয়া কথা। তেখেতে আচৰিত হৈছে যে অতি অলপ সময়ৰ ভিতৰতে আমাৰ ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ মেডিকেল কলেজ এখন First Grade কলেজ হৈ উঠিছে আৰু ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ ভিতৰত যি বিলাক মেডিকেল কলেজ আছে সেই বিলাকতকৈ আমাৰ মেডিকেল কলেজ কোনো অংশে কম নহয়। তেখেতে বৰ আবেগেৰে সৈতে কৈছে যে আমাৰ আই সকলৰ প্ৰসবৰ সময়ত যি যাতনা হয় সেই যাতনা লাঘবৰ উদ্দেশ্যে মাতৃমঙ্গল আৰু শিশু মঙ্গল কেন্দ্ৰ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে বিশেষ ব্যৱস্থা লোৱা হোৱা নাই। এই সম্পৰ্কে মই তেখেতক জনাব খুজিছোঁ যে আমি মাতৃমঙ্গল আৰু শিশু মঙ্গল কেন্দ্ৰ বহুতো ঠাইত খুলিছোঁ।

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUA (Amguri) :
ভিতৰৰ গাঁৱত খুলিছেনে ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) : আমাৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীবৰবৰুৱাই উল্লেখ কৰা ভালেমান ভিতৰুৱা ঠাইতো আমি এনেকুৱা কেন্দ্ৰ খুলিছোঁ তেখেতৰ ঠাই নামতি আলিতো খুলিছোঁ। কিন্তু দুখৰ কথা যে আজিও আমি উপযুক্ত শিক্ষা পোৱা ছোৱালী বিচাৰি নাপাওঁ। আজি আমাৰ যিবিলাক হাস্পতাল আৰু মাতৃমঙ্গল কেন্দ্ৰ (Maternity Home) আছে সেই বিলাক চলাইছোঁ কাৰ দ্বাৰা ? ইয়াত যদি আমাৰ পৰ্বৰতীয়া ভনী সকলৰ অৱদান নাথাকিলহেতেন আৰু যদি তেওঁলোকে সেৱাৰ মনোভাৱ spirit of service লৈ কাম নকৰিলেহেতেন তেনেহলে এই হাস্পতাল আৰু মাতৃমঙ্গল আমাৰ এই পৰিষদত যি সকল মহিলা সদস্য আছে তেখেত সকলক অনুৰোধ কৰিছোঁ যেন তেখেত সকলে গাঁৱৰ মহিলা সকলৰ মাজত এনেকুৱা এটা অনুপ্ৰেৰণা জগাই তোলে যাতে এই মাতৃমঙ্গল কেন্দ্ৰ বিলাক ভালকৈ চলাবৰ কাৰণে গাঁৱৰ ছোৱালী বিলাক আগবাঢ়ি আহে। মই বৰ দুখ পাইছোঁ যে নাৰ্চ আৰু ধাইৰ ট্ৰেইনিঙৰ কাৰণে বৃত্তি দিবলৈকো ছোৱালী বিচাৰি নাপাওঁ। সেই কাৰণে মই অনুৰোধ কৰিছোঁ যেন আমাৰ মহিলা সদস্য সকলে গাঁৱে গাঁৱে গৈ আমাৰ গাঁৱত মহিলা সকলৰ মাজত এটা অনুপ্ৰেৰণা জগাই তুলি গাঁৱৰ ছোৱালী বিলাকক এই শিক্ষাৰ নিমিত্তে আগবাঢ়াই লৈ আহিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰে। তাকে কৰিলে আমাৰ মাতৃমঙ্গল আৰু শিশু মঙ্গলৰ কাৰণে ভালেখিনি উপকাৰ হ'ব।

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) :

দখা হু কবিলে দখোৱা Seat আৰু বৃদ্ধি নাই বুলি কয় ?

(A voice :—पूछनेवाला भी नहीं होता है)।

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in course of the Budget discussion many of the hon. Members raised many questions and matters relating to the educational problem of the State which calls for certain element of details. So the Finance Minister thought it fit for me to reply to those points.

In the first place, hon. Shri Pakhirai Deka of Panery raised that no steps have been taken by Government to take over private venture schools in Mangaldai although some such schools are in existence for 10 years. In this connection, I would like to point out that taking over of venture schools in the plains districts is entirely the responsibility of the School Board concerned. (Voices: Not of Government?) Government simply give necessary grants; they have no direct responsibility. There is a general directive from the State Education Board that schools in backward and tribal areas should be generally given preferential treatment over schools in advanced areas. If there is any such school which is in existence for last 10 years, the matter should be brought to the notice of the School Board or the State Education Board so that Government may take action in the matter.

Hon. Shri Deka also raised the question of the plight of the primary school teachers. In this connection I would like to point out that nobody denies that the condition of our primary school teachers is bad. Government are equally keen to ameliorate their condition consistent with the financial resources of the State. So Government in the meanwhile are taking steps on the basis of the recommendations of the Pay Committee to prescribe a pay scale for these teachers which is in no way less when compared with the pay scales of other cadres of service. In this connection, Sir, I would like to refer to the pay scales published in the *Assam Gazette*, dated the 18th January last. The pay scale of the untrained primary teachers has been raised from Rs. 30-1-40 to Rs. 40-1-60 and for the Guru or basic-trained teachers, the pay scale has been raised from Rs. 30-1-45 to Rs. 50-1-65. So, Sir, it will be evident that the teachers in the first category serving for one year will get an additional benefit of Rs. 15, as any teacher who has put in one year's service will get an additional benefit of Rs. 5 due to new fixation of pay. The teachers of the second category will get an additional benefit of Rs. 20.

*Speech not corrected.

***Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** On a point of information, Sir. Why some of the lower primary school teachers do not get their pay for two or three months together ?

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education):** That is a different matter altogether. From what I have said, it will be evident, Sir, that Government have taken adequate steps to ameliorate the condition of the primary school teachers on the basis of the recommendations of the Pay Committee.

***Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North):** Do Government consider that the revised scale of pay of the lower primary school teachers is sufficient to meet their daily necessities ?

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education):** That will be replied to by the Finance Minister. From 1st October, 1956 to 31st March, 1957 an additional sum of Rs. 15 lakhs has been sanctioned to give effect to these pay scales. In the current year's Budget a sum of Rs. 32 lakhs has been allotted for this purpose. From these facts, it will be evident that Government have taken adequate steps to improve the condition of the primary school teachers.

***Shrimati JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar—West):** On a point of information, Sir, why there is a difference in pay between a normal passed teacher and a senior trained mistress ?

***Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education):** That matter is under consideration of Government.

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education):** Then, Sir, Shri Surendra Nath Das said that the educational institutions in tribal areas should be given special attention by Government. In this connection, I may point out that they do receive special consideration. Not only they are given grants under Article 275 of the Constitution, but in addition they get grants from the normal Budget. So, Government are giving special consideration to the educational institutions in the tribal areas. He also urged that the Bojali College should be given grant-in-aid by Government. Sir, in this connection I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members that in view of the three-year degree course and reorganisation of secondary education, any question of encouraging new colleges or aiding the existing venture colleges needs careful examination by

Government. Government is, therefore, not in a position to give any assurance just at the present moment regarding the Bojali College.

Then, Sir, my Friend, Shri Mathias Tudu, raised the point that the lot of the aided high school teachers is deplorable. In this connection, I would point out that the pay scales as recommended by the Pay Committee have been given effect to from the 1st October, 1956. From the recommendations of the Pay Committee as published in the *Assam Gazette* of 18th January, 1957, it will be evident that these are in consonance with the demand of the aided high school teachers though the scales may not satisfy their full aspirations.

***Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North):**
Do Government consider them adequate?

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education):** Government think that the pay scales prescribed by the Pay Committee are better than the pay scales prevalent elsewhere.

Then, Sir, my Friend, Shri Gouri Shankar Roy, raised the point that the Government should take steps to establish an engineering institute at Silchar. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the reply given by the Chief Minister on the floor of this House in the present Session of the Assembly that the matter is under examination of Government and if found feasible, Government will definitely either upgrade the existing technical school or establish a new institute.

Maulana Abdul Jalil criticised the Government for not taking effective steps to implement the scheme submitted by the Jamiet-Ulema. In this respect I would like to point out that the scheme submitted by Mr. Jalil had received due consideration of Government, but its implementation has not yet been possible as certain important aspects of the scheme have been objected to by some members of the State Madrassa Board and some local Persian scholars. Government have, however, taken steps to appoint a small Committee to go into the whole system of Madrassa education and give their suggestions for improvement as in the case of Sanskrit education. The matter rests at that stage.

Then, Sir, Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani said that educational institutions in his constituency had not received due grants from Government. He said that out of as many as

**Speech not corrected.*

six high schools, only one was receiving full grant-in-aid from Government. Sir, Government sanction grants on fulfilment of certain conditions. There must be at least 300 students in the roll, 40 per cent of whom should be in the upper classes, *i.e.*, from classes VII to X. These rules have been prescribed with a view to give effect to the recommendations of the Pay Committee which involves financial commitment from the side of Government. So, Sir, unless these conditions are fulfilled, no grant can be sanctioned. When these conditions are fulfilled, these schools will automatically come under the purview of Government.

***Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Is it followed with regard to every school ?

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education):** Yes, Sir. But in respect of girls' schools, the enrolment has been prescribed to be 150 students in a particular school. But so far as the percentage is concerned, the students in the upper classes must be 40 per cent. The Government have been following this principle very strictly.

Then Maulavi Muhammad Idris raised the question that the Government have not been liberal regarding grants-in-aid to the educational institutions in Nowgong.

***Maulavi MAHAMMAD IDRIS (Rupohihat):** Sir, I have not spoken about Nowgong only. I spoke about the entire State.

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA :** In the entire State Government have been giving grants-in-aid to the institutions—either they are of special type or general type—without making any discrimination. I can assure the hon. Members of this House that there was no discrimination from the side of the Government at the time of making allotment of grant-in-aid to the different institutions in the entire State. So, Sir, it is not correct that the Government have not given due consideration to the Madrassa schools in the entire State.

Then Shri Idris has raised the question of the teachers of the Middle English Madrassa.

***Maulavi MUHAMMAD IDRIS :** Sir, is it not a fact that the teachers of the Middle English Madrassa have not been given equal treatment by the Government in comparison with the treatment given to Middle Vernacular Schools ?

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister):** Sir, in respect of other schools also they have been given equal treatment while making grants by the Government. There is no such discrimination on the part of the Government. But in some cases if there be any discrimination, if it is brought to the notice of the Government, the Government will surely try to do something in such a case.

Then he raised the point that the teachers of the Middle English Madrasa are not given equal dearness allowance. This matter is under the consideration of the Government so that this disparity in dearness allowance is removed.

Then Shri Molia Tati from Doom Dooma raised the point that there must be provision for free education in tea gardens for the labourers. Under the Plantation Labour Act, the responsibility of giving free education to the labourers rests with the tea garden authorities. Unfortunately this is not done in some of the gardens in Assam. The Government has been trying to do its best with a view to see that it is actually done by the tea garden authorities.

He also raised the point that there must be provision for awarding foreign scholarships to the students of tea garden labourers. Sir, foreign scholarships are awarded strictly on merit. If there is any suitable candidate from the tea garden labourers he is given foreign scholarship. Before awarding foreign scholarship the candidate must fulfil the condition of requisite qualifications.

Mr. SPEAKER: I now propose to call upon the Finance Minister to give his reply. That was the arrangement between him and myself, as he desires to finish his reply by 3-45 P.M.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Finance Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is gratifying to note that a large number of hon. Members have taken part in the general discussion of the Budget, and still more gratifying to observe that the debate in this House has been followed with high order. Sir, I may be excused, having been in Lok Sabha for the last five years, if I could say that this House is really conducting the business in a dignified standard.

***Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):** Sir, it is flattery only.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Sir, I am no flatterer. I give the due to which it places.

The hon. Member (who is an interjector) is an illustrious Member of this House, and his replies are quite enjoyable. If the criticisms from an Opposition Member would have been more critical, if I may say so, a little rancour, nobody could have found the fault with him. After all, in a democratic set up, the party which carries the responsibility of the Government is subjected to all sorts of criticisms, and that is the essence of democracy. One day one of my esteemed friends in Lok Sabha stated in the Lobby—"Mr. Sarmah, why do you call our Prime Minister a thief? What morbidity you have to call the Prime Minister a thief? I told him—"It is not morbidity, because in a democratic country, I can call the Prime Minister as such. That is the spirit of democracy."

Now I propose to deal with the subjects and the points that have been raised by the hon. Members from all sides of the House.

I now start with the hills and then I roll on to the plains on general subjects, and finally I will try to mention of my appreciation or of my thanks to the hon. Members.

When I take the hills it occurs to me as what really will have been done because when esteemed friends like hon. Rev. Nichols Roy and Captain Williamson Sangma talk of treating the District Councils as foreign bodies, talk of exploitation, talk of not giving out a fair deal to the hills, I feel actually that these statements cannot be substantiated, and that they are more than correct. But at the same time, I feel that these statements were unduly made. To say the least, these statements sought to bring in sense of searching our own hearts.

With these few words, I will now take the first point that has been raised by my hon. Friend, Rev. Roy. He was trying to understand the three figures given at page 31 of the Budget Speech, *viz.*, the net disbursements under Loans and Advances which are estimated at Rs.457 lakhs, and then Rs.1,999 lakhs, and then under Net Income from Deposits etc.—Rs.93 lakhs and also the item of our Public Debt. It would have been an economy of time, and another additional advantage if the hon. Member would have taken the trouble to seek clarification from the Superintendent of the Budget Department whose services have been placed at the disposal of the hon. Members in the Assembly Chamber. However, I submit that the figures of Rs. 457 lakhs has been arrived thus: Loans and advances by the State Government (*vide* page IV of the Budget)—Expenditure Voted—Rs. 4,89,80 thousand, Charged Rs. 1 lakh 70 thousand—total—Rs. 4 crores 91 lakhs 50 thousand. Deduct from this sum the Receipt, that is to say, Loans and Advances by the State Government which is Rs.34

lakhs 13 thousand (*vide* page II of the Budget) and thus we arrive at this figure of Rs. 4 crores 57 lakhs 37 thousand. If the hon. Member cannot follow the pages in the Budget, I will pass this on to him and at his leisure he can see to it. But if what I have said or what I am going to say does not satisfy him, then we shall discuss and thereafter it will be a great satisfaction for us to correct ourselves.

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Sir, it is not a question of being satisfied or not ; my point is that I do not find these figures in the Budget.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :** That is what I am hinting at, Sir. My Friend need not take notes, I shall pass this on to him and he can see it. Now, the next item that he wanted to know is how this figure of Rs.1,999 lakhs was arrived at. This is how it is arrived at:—Revenue deficit—Rs.461 lakhs, capital expenditure (*vide* page IV of the Budget)—Rs.1,056 lakhs, repayment of Central loans (page IV of the Budget)—Rs.25 lakhs and Loans and Advances by the State Government—457 lakhs—the total comes to Rs.1,999 lakhs. Now regarding this 25 lakhs repayment to Central loans it is, if I may say so, rather an underestimate because we approached the Finance Commission to relax in terms of payment so that we can take longer period to pay in instalments.

Then, Sir, about this 93 lakhs, it is arrived at thus—Receipt: Contingency Fund (page VI of the Budget)—2 lakhs 35 thousand, public account (page VII of the Budget), 36 crores 72 lakhs 85 thousand and the expenditure on Public Account at page VIII of the Budget 35 crores 82 lakhs 7 thousand—thus altogether it makes Rs 93 lakhs 13 thousand.

Sir, the next item is Borrowing—200 lakhs (*vide* page II) of the Budget. This amount represents proposed borrowing, but we have not as yet finally decided upon borrowing. A meeting was going to be held on the 23rd of this month at Bombay with the Central Finance Minister and the Reserve Bank people, the Finance Minister of the State was asked to go, but I have sent a telegram that it will not be possible for me to go and I have requested the Central Finance Minister to defer this discussion. As regards the state B, the figure of 2 crores is a provision for liquidating Treasury bills if and when a necessity arose, treasury bills are issued for 3 months and within these 3 months these treasury bills are liquidated. So, Sir, these 2 crores have been voted, credited and debited—as a matter of fact it does not affect our Budget.

Now, Sir, the next item that I would like to take up and which has been sought to be made out in the comments about these autonomous district councils as well as the exhibition of actuals of receipts in the Budget for autonomous councils. These two items have been cited both by Rev. Nichols-Roy and Capt. Sangma as to how the Government of Assam seeks to suppress the accounts of these autonomous councils and as to how they do not take these councils into confidence and as to how according to these statements the Government are not taking serious consideration. Let us examine whether the facts justify these or unfortunately a misunderstanding has crept in. Sir, let us take up this item of the grant for development schemes in the autonomous districts, namely Sixth Schedule Part (A) areas. Now, Sir, the expenditure under Article 275 of the Constitution of India is estimated by the Government of India and approval has to be taken from the Government of India. These schemes and items of expenditure are planned by the State Government in consultation with the elected Members of the hills. Then these schemes are sent to the Government of India for approval. The Government of India scrutinise these schemes, plans and estimates, thereafter those which are not approved cannot be taken up and those that are approved are sent back to the State Government for implementation. It will be easily understood that these schemes and plans cannot be implemented in a day. It takes all the year round and sometimes there is a lag continuing to next year. Then Government of Assam goes on implementing the schemes and plans throughout the year and, I am sure, Rev. Nichols-Roy is perfectly conversant with this procedure that expenditures are made from State revenue and then the Government of India takes the actual expenditure for the 9 months of the year, that is the current year in which the schemes are implemented and taking a view of the estimates of the actuals of the previous 9 months the Government of India credits the State Government with the whole amount for the year including these 3 months. It will be found that what is really spent for the autonomous districts finds place in the expenditure side. Now, a question may arise, in fact, was raised, why the actual receipts are not shown. It will be observed in the budget that while expenditures are shown receipts are not shown. Sir, it does not make any difference if actual expenditures are shown and the actual receipts are not shown.

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** May I ask a point, Sir? The question is that the actual receipts are not shown at all and I want to know why the actuals are not shown?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** I am directly dealing with that identical point. I have tried to make the point clear that the State Government implements the scheme out of the State revenue and that towards the third quarter of the year the Government of India takes the actual expenditure for the 9 months and expected expenditure for the remaining 3 months and they credit the State Government with the amount. Let it be clearly understood and let there be no mistake about it, the State Government can spend what the Government of India approves and the.....

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** What we do not understand, Sir, is this that these expenditures for the autonomous districts are not only from the grants-in-aid from the Government of India but it is also from the Government of Assam ; but expenditure side shows of both the Government of India and of the Government of Assam. But what grants were received from the Government of India were not shown for 5 years.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** The Government of Assam implements the scheme approved by the Central Government and spend the amount as sanctioned by the Central Government. Now, Assam Government spends what it gets under Article 275 from the Central Government. Assam Government do not get a rupee more or a rupee less. Now, all these expenditures are shown clearly in the Budget. Let us see in the detailed Budget estimate at page 26. We will see what amount is being spent there. As this point is a serious one, I want to clear it. Let there be no misapprehension that there is cooking account in the Budget for this amount. The hon. Members to see that under Sixth Schedule Part (A) areas the amounts are shown clearly in different heads, such as, establishment, conservancy and works, development schemes for the Second Five Year Plan, etc.

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Yes, Sir.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** As the break up is required, it will be found in details at pages 32 and 33 the amounts for the First Five Year Plan and at page 35 the amounts for Second Five Year Plan. The hon. Member will be pleased to know that every rupee sanctioned by the Government of India under article 275 has been accounted for and shown how it has been spent.

**Speech not corrected.*

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** I appreciate that; but what I want to know is the expenditures under the autonomous districts under column of sixth scheduled areas incurred by the Government of Assam and the Government of India separately. I want to know what is the receipt from the Government of India as grant-in-aid under Article 275 and also what amount is given by the State Government? I want to know simply how much is the receipt from the Government of India? I asked the Superintendent of the Finance Department and he said he does not know why it is not shown separately. It seems there is some mistake.

Mr. SPEAKER : Are the figures known to the Superintendent?

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** We discussed these figures. He could not explain to me; so I say I was bewildered as to why this grant-in-aid from the Government of India is not to be seen separately for the last 4 years; but in 1951-52 it was shown separately.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :** I will now for a moment give the explanation why we do not find the actuals. This is not of our choice or our doing. We pursue the matter a little further why we are not having the actuals at the present moment.

Now, the Accountant General has, as you know, gives a detailed picture in respect of grants for the Sixth Schedule districts. The Accountant General said that this grant is not a receipt which the Government of Assam necessarily collects as revenue for the autonomous districts.

In this connection, Sir, I will read an extract from the Accountant General's Letter No.BT.3458 dated 20th February, 1951.

“According to the views of the Government of India, Ministry of Law, contained in the last para of their letter No.F 26/500 dated 18th April, 1950 to your Government, para 13 of the Sixth Schedule applies in relation to those moneys which the Government of Assam will necessarily collect as revenues within the Autonomous district in the course of their administration thereof”

*Speech not corrected.

"The overhead charges do not therefore seem to come into the picture nor do the receipts common to the State as a whole such as subvention from the Government of India, share of Income-tax and other duties, Post-war grant and other capital and extraordinary receipts....."

Sir, the Accountant General under instruction from the Ministry of Law booked the two accounts together. I must inform the hon. Member that we are taking up the matter with the Accountant General, and we shall try our level best to get this split up if the Government of India permits. The Government of India gave us money under Article 275 but for the two actuals the Accountant General does not book the accounts separately that is for the plains and the autonomous districts.

Let us make it clear, Sir, that there should be no doubt that the amount received by the Government of Assam from the Central Government under Article 275 will not really be wasted.....

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Sir, what is the amount of grant given by the Government of India under Article 275 (I) proviso (b) to the Autonomous Districts. If it is not possible to give the account now, it may be done so after the third or fourth year, we don't mind, but we want that the amount received by the Government of Assam from the Government of India under Article 275 as stated above should be entered in the Budget.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Sir, I am afraid the hon. Member has confused the point, he has taken the two things together. What are the statutory grants under Article 275? The statutory grants are the fixed grants but the actuals.....

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY :** That is correct, Sir, but such grants under Article 275(I), proviso (b) are not fixed, they are according to.....

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Is not the amount of Rs. 40 lakhs fixed, Sir? Sir, there is much confusion on this issue, I propose to take up this matter with Rev. Roy at some other suitable time. The House will find it boring to go on like this and I find that this subject will take away the time of the House. Sir, for the Autonomous Districts, Assam Government prepared the estimates in consultation with the members

of the District Council, subsequently these are sent up to the Government of India for approval and actually the Assam Government can implement those schemes which are approved by the Government of India. The fourth is that the Government of Assam spent out of its own revenue and goes on implementing the schemes, the fifth is that towards the close of the year, the first nine months' actuals are taken, and the balance three months' probables are taken, the sixth point is that the Assam Government spent money exactly on those approved schemes only and spent nothing more or less.....

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** We do not doubt or suspect the Government of Assam, we want only to get the correct figures

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** But Sir, I have read the letter.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I have an idea that this can be taken up personally between the hon. Minister and the hon. Members at some suitable time or at their pleasure.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Sir, I have not the least hesitation to go to Rev. Roy's place with all these papers with me and sit in his parlour and discuss all these things and perhaps I might also get a cup of hot coffee in his house. (Laughter) Sir, I have tried my best to place out things to the best of my ability but of course I won't mind having personel discussion with the elder parliamentarian.

The next item, Sir, is the serious charge against the Government about the non-submission of the comments of the Budget to the District Councils. But let us examine the whole thing. My friend Capt. Sangna has said that the comments are not circulated to the Members, but in this connection I may say that no other hon. Member has complained that the comments are not made available to them. Sir, in the past years the comments from the District Councils were placed on the Library table and very few people except the Members took interest to these things. I have no doubt that the representatives in the hills did their best to discuss matters with the Chief Minister and others and things are going on smoothly in this way. Sir, from adolescence we have grown to youth, I mean in democracy, Sir. From the next year, Sir, I may inform the hon. Members and especially the Members from the hills that henceforth the comments will be made available to all the hon. Members of the House.

**Speech not corrected.*

For the information of the hon. Members, henceforth Government propose that we should have some sort of time table for our whole budget procedure and all this thing will be drawn up by the Budget Department of the Government and these things together with the comments will be sent to the District Councils for their comments, when the comments are received back by the State Government, if everything is in order that is alright, but if there is difference or anything like that the Budget Department will send for the representatives of the District Councils and discuss things to avoid frustration and other difficulties. If there is no difference then these things can be ironed, if still some difference persists, then the Budget Department of the Government will propose such things to go to the Cabinet. The Members of the different District Councils will of course associate in the discussions with the Cabinet. I submit, Sir, by this procedure, perhaps all the difference will be satisfactorily solved and I hope there will be no difficulty in this regard provided we can present the time-table to the hills members.

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** May I speak a few words Sir, on this account? The members of the District Councils complained that the Budget together with all the connected papers were received only a few days before the session commenced, and all these things were sent to the Deputy Commissioner concerned and every member was asked by the Deputy Commissioner to go to his office to receive the copies of the Budget from him, that is the thing which is resented by the members. They don't want to go to the Deputy Commissioner and get the copies of the Budget from him. This was felt very much by the members the Government did not care for the District Councils and that that copies of the Budget were sent to them for the sake of formality. I think the Finance Minister will see that these things will change in the future, so that the members may get their copies of the Budget direct and not through the Deputy Commissioner.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :** I do hope, Sir, things will do change for the better. Even the world is changing and progressing. The hon. Member need not consider anything fixed, because the very earth on which we are standing is changing so also the sun and the moon. We hope that there will be ample discussions so that misunderstanding on these minor matters may be eliminated and we may arrive at a proper understanding. I appreciate the feelings that has

been at this moment expressed by the hon. Member. Sir, as a Member of the All-India Congress Committee, as a Member of the Provincial Congress Committee, we sent many things to the All-India Congress Committee, but even a comma or semicolon we cannot change. We feel disgusted and frustrated sometime when we cannot effect any change. After all what is necessary in this case is not to have a feeling of frustration. We may have more detailed discussions. I think we should have discussions and more discussions till we can arrive at a decision.....

***Shri C. THUAMLUAIA [Lungleh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** I want to know whether any separate provision is made for the southern region *viz.*, Nonkrong area of the Lushai Hills or it is included in the Lushai Hills District Council Budget ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :** Sir, I must confess I am not very conversant with the fact whether the District Council budget covers the whole district or there is a separate provision for the region referred to by my Friend. I think I would be able to satisfy the hon. Member now. I shall look into this matter and in future adjustment would be made to the best advantage of the people as a whole.

Sir, there is another instance of misunderstanding—it is a glaring instance as to how misunderstanding arises between friends, between people leading to serious trouble. I am very sorry that my Friend, Capt. Sangma, is not here. I expected he would be pleased to extend the courtesy to me to listen to this point. He was pleased to say in course of his speech that not only we were bluffing this House but we were exploiting them. He cited one instance of how the Government of Assam is bluffing and exploiting the hills people. Sir, if I make it clear, I hope my Friend will find how sadly he is mistaken about the whole thing. He further stated that he represented this matter when the Congress President, Shri Dhebar, came there and he stated that Dhebarji was satisfied that the Garo Hills people had reasons to be dissatisfied. Sir, the misfortune is that when an one-sided and *exparte* submission is made, people do not have the advantage of knowing the both sides of the issue. Sir, when I heard him I myself felt very much perplexed. I thought to myself what was our Government doing ? I felt very much dejected when I heard his charge. But, Sir, if we go deeper into the subject and try to understand, before we castigate others, before we lay the blame on others, before, if I may say so, we vilify others, many a misunderstanding, many

a quarrel, many a division, many a secession, many a divorce could be avoided. Sir, he mentioned the Budget for 1953-54 at p.59.—Grant No.28. He said that a sum of Rs.1,31,800 was saddled on the back of the Garo Hills District, under the head Drainage and Embankment Works, but not a single Officer was appointed, and that the whole amount shown under the above head for the Garo Hills has been grabbed by the Government of Assam, and to add insult to injury.....

***Rev. J.J.M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** He said that no Officer was appointed.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :** I am coming to that, Sir. He said that an Executive Engineer went to his place, and paid his respect. Sir, he was the Chief Executive Member of the Garo Hills District Council and it was quite proper for the Minister-in-charge of the Public Works Department to send one of his Officers to a gentleman of his reputation to pay respect to the hon. Member. But that point has completely been misconstrued if he thought that the Executive Engineer went there as one of the employees of the Garo Hills District. No, Sir. He went there as an Officer of the Goalpara District and as he went there on some other businesses, he took the opportunity to meet the hon. Member.

***Rev. J.J.M. NICHOLS-ROY :** Whether it is not true that the Executive Engineer of Goalpara is in charge of the Public Works Department works of the Garo Hills District ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** That is perfectly so, Sir. I hope the hon. Member will have the patience for a couple of minutes more to listen to what I am saying. I refer to Grant No.28—Charges on account of Public Works—Tools and Plant and Establishment. (Heads of Account—18-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works, 39.—Public Health and 50.—Civil Works.) This I am reading from the Detailed Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1955-56 for the Garo Hills District. At page 59 all the detailed figures have been given. The Actuals of 1953-54 under Establishment are as follows:—

B.—Charges on Construction—

				Rs.
1. Pay of officers	...	...	...	17,232
2. Pay of establishment	...	...	...	54,104

**Speech not corrected.*

			Rs.
3. Allowance and honoraria	...	...	46,618
4. Contingencies	...	...	13,846
The total amount comes to	...	...	1,31,800

The mistake is there and I do not blame the hon. Member or Capt. Sangma. But on the face of the matter it is a bit confusing and I do concede it. Let us look at page 14 *ante* of the same budget. Here under Grant No.9, Charges on account of Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works: 68.-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—you will find that the whole thing is blank. I am forwarding this copy to the hon. Member to see for himself how the position stands. The fact of the matter was that there was actually not a single rupee spent out of this budget under Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works. But what has been spent was in connection with Civil Works in the Garo Hills. The confusion arose out of the fact that all the 3 heads have been jumbled up together. Perhaps in future our Budget Department will be a little more careful and will not economise paper as they are doing now. These are the little things which create great misunderstanding and at times such things lead to war between nations and here, if not war, they lead to disaffection. They lead to disturbance in our fancy between different people.

***Rev. J.J.M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** The Hon'ble Minister has said that there is some confusion in the Budget. Things have been put in such a way that it has not been possible to find out the exact position. I think he will take such care so that we can find out the figures easily.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Not to the extent the hon. Member has said. I said simply that the confusion has arisen due to those three items. If he would look into the figures at page 14 of this Budget then the whole thing would be clear to him. I do not say that the confusion is owing to the way in which the Budget has been prepared. The system of the Budget preparation is followed from the British days. We have been only trying to improve it.

I now come to the next point about Bajrengdoba bridge. Capt. Sangma raised the point about this, but he is not here now.....

***Rev. J.J.M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Sir, another Member from the Garo Hills is present here and he shall be able to speak something about it.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Sir, if things continue like this then it will be like a'Gaoburah Mel-

Mr. SPEAKER: If we allow this I do not think we shall be able to finish the debate this afternoon. I suggest the Hon'ble Finance Minister to continue his speech and to reply to the points already raised.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Sir I am trying to do that to the best of my ability.

Mr. SPEAKER: But there is a procedure and we want to follow that procedure.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** The Chair will pardon me for taking a long time on this matter. I am speaking in my humble way to make clear the misunderstanding and misgivings in the minds of the Members with regard to the Garo Hills budget, because it is said that things are done in such a way that the hills are not getting justice. That is why, Sir, I am taking a little more time of the House.

The next point is about Bajrengdoba bridge. It has been stated that the work is shown to be progressing and a sum of Rs.15 000 has been shown to be spent. As regards the progress I should like to state that estimates were drawn up and the schemes were sent up to Government of India for approval. The approval was expected to come much early, but perhaps due to last election and other pre-occupation in the Centre this approval of the scheme did not come when it was expected to come. Since the approval is given by the Centre for such projects in the hills areas and in anticipation of that approval the Department began purchasing some materials before the end of the year. Hon. Members might have seen some of such iron and steel materials just below the Sukleshwarghat on the bank of the Brahmaputra. Some machinery and iron and steel are purchased by the Public Works Department much before the real construction works begin. They are so purchased because they are not generally available at short notice.

Not only for Bajrengdoba but for various other schemes these things were purchased and dumped to be utilised as and when necessary. The hon. Member will be pleased to note that Rs.15,000 is the estimate for the whole year and the money will be spent as the work progresses. So, there need be no apprehension that the Assam Government is diverting money from the Barjrendoba bridge to elsewhere. This is another glaring instance of how misunderstanding arises.

Sir, after having cleared this misunderstanding I will now take up the broad questions. I may be pardoned by the Members from the hills if I have no time to go into the details. I will touch the main salient points only, giving details wherever it is considered necessary and wherever possible for me. In the speeches made both by Rev. Nichols Roy and Capt. Williamson Sangma, it was alleged that the basic needs of the hills people were not sought to be understood. Sir, as I said earlier, this is a thought provoking statement, which cannot be factually examined. Whether enough has been done and whether effort has been made to do enough are matters of opinion. My son may feel that I have done enough for him within my means, or he may not feel that I have done enough for him. It is a question of opinion in a family, in a community and in a nation. But let us examine whether *bona fide* efforts have been made. As I said, Sir, apart from the facts, whether efforts have been made to ameliorate the condition of our hill brethren, to bring them to the same level with the plains people of India, the notion they hold about us is altogether a different matter, belonging to the psychological sphere. When statements are made that the State Government consider the District Councils to be foreign bodies, that the Government do not treat the hill brethren as equals and that they are out to exploit them, surely this is a psychological matter which needs mostly psychological treatment. As Rev. Nichols-Roy, Capt. Williamson Sangma and the Member from Amguri—Shri Barbaruah were pleased to say that the hill people are having a feeling of frustration. If indeed they are having a feeling of frustration, it is upto the Government to do their best so that this feeling of frustration is removed. It is upto the Government to approach the leaders of the hills for their earnest co-operation to remove that feeling. If there be a feeling of frustration it does no good to anybody. When it is mere discontent it may be styled as "Divine". If we do not have discontent we cannot have progress. But when there is a feeling of frustration it needs going into the psychology behind it. We must strive to bring about an understanding by discussions with the leaders of the people. Whether we live in the hills or plains, it does not matter very much, but what I want to stress is that there must be understanding as there used to be in the dim and distant past. There was understanding and we must revive that understanding and that can only be done by earnest co-operation and understanding arising out of mutual discussions between Government and the leaders of the hills people.

Having said this, I would now briefly state what has been done to remove the distress of the hills people and ameliorate their condition. Sir, in 1954 a scheme was taken with the Central Government's assistance of Rs.50 lakhs and 500 families from the border areas of Khasi Hills were brought and rehabilitated at Bhoi. Then when more families were needed to be rehabilitated 80 more families were brought and resettled at Bhoi. These 580 families were given agricultural loans, the land was reclaimed for them and help was given for paddy cultivation, minor irrigation and other projects; the distribution of seeds and manures was made amongst them. Sir, when these 580 families were settled, they were given Rs.450 as gratuitous grant and Rs.500 as loan; agricultural loan was also advanced to them. Now 24 families out of the total number thought that they should not work and that Government should give them Rs.2,000 per family so that they could engage labourers. They created difficulties and did not fall in line with the rest of the families. They submitted a memorandum to the Congress President, to the Government of India directly, to the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister. Enquiries were made and the Government of India sent their people to enquire. It was found that those people were really asking for more than what they should or would get and they were really creating trouble for others. The rest 556 families are doing well there and are prospering. Sir, it may be recalled that the Ayyangar Committee came to Assam in 1952. Shri H.V.R. Ayyangar was one of the seniormost and most respected officer of the Government of India for his ability and integrity. He was sent to enquire and find out the wants and difficulties of the tribal people of the hills. He came and recommended that rice should be subsidised in those border hill areas and some people should also be rehabilitated. Rice was subsidised to the extent of Rs.10 lakhs in 1954-55 and Rs.10,11,082 in 1955-56. This subsidising is still continued. Thereafter the local M. L. As. advised the Government that rice subsidy was not really to the benefit of the people to the extent that by giving doles of rice we make people lazy and in some places some tendency towards beggary developed. Therefore the local M. L. As. in consultation with the Government advised that test relief work on roads should be taken up and agricultural loan should be substituted in place of rice subsidy. Sir, the road schemes were taken up and agricultural loans were advanced.

***Rev. J.J.M. NICHOLS ROY [Cherapunjee (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Sir, may I say a few words for the information of the Honourable Finance Minister? The M.L.As. advised not to give any agricultural loan. There was something wrong in the transport before the rice subsidy could reach. That was the reason why we said that the rice subsidy should be stopped.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Then I take the information from the hon. Member that rice subsidy is still sent to the interior of the subdivision. I think we are making suitable arrangements to check corruption in different places. Sir, the hon. Member is quite correct, as there is a saying in Assamese—"We do not stop excavating a tank till there is fog, and still we go on excavating it" and in the same manner still the state of affairs in this respect is going on in the Subdivision. But on the top of that I think Rs.10,11,820 have been given as agricultural loan and not as rice subsidy. The road schemes are going on even now. In addition, two Intensive Development Blocks have been started at Jowai and Mairang in the district. There are National Extension Service Blocks for which Rs.7 lakhs have been allotted and Community Projects for which Rs.15 lakhs have been given. These two Intensive Development Blocks entailed Rs.27 lakhs each, and for this purpose Rs.15 lakhs are given out of Community Project and Rs.12 lakhs out of National Extension Service Blocks, and of these amounts 50 per cent has been given out of Central Grant and 50 per cent out of the State coffers. As I have said the local M. L. As. advised the Government that test relief work on roads should be taken up and agricultural loans should be substituted in place of rice subsidy, in actual implementation five major road projects were taken up in the border areas of the district involving an expenditure of Rs.92,32,000 for construction of 137.7 miles of hill roads. These are new roads. Besides there are 21 miles of road. In the Second Five Year Plan two more road projects are being approved by the Government at an expenditure of Rs.11 lakhs. So, Sir, may I submit for the consideration of the House that these are no mean achievement? It may be said that it does not solve the problem of the people living on the borders of the districts. I would concede perhaps one-twelfth of the problem facing the people living on the borders will be solved by these road projects,—particularly the people living on the border of Pakistan. Let us also consider the enormous difficulty with which we have been confronted with in having machinery, in having implements and other things. With due deference to all fair-minded people I would consider that this is no mean achievement on the part of the Government.

Next, coming to the point that was sought to be made that the people living on our border areas of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills have lost their markets—particularly of fruits and other crops. There is difficulty about it. Government are not unaware of the difficulty of the people living on the border areas. People have been approaching Government through their leaders to help them in their difficulty. I also appreciate the tremendous difficulty with which the people living on the borders areas have been confronted with. Government, according to the present arrangement, are having an air-strip build up at Shella, and in the meantime, arrangements were made with the Government of India for air-lifting oranges and other fruits grown in the border areas. These arrangements were continued for two years. The growers were getting fair amount of income from oranges, pepper, betelnuts, etc., by air-lifting them to Calcutta market. So from the side of the Government they have been trying their best to relieve the difficulty of the people living on the borders. For two years air-lifting of oranges and other things were going on at a heavy subsidy from the coffers of the State Government. Then the Pakistan traders began to infiltrate into the border areas as a result of which there has been a considerable smuggling of oranges and other things to Pakistan. So in the third year the Assam Government or for the matter of that the Government of India was making no arrangement for air-lifting anything from the border areas. The Government of India even wanted that the air-strip at Shella should be abandoned. But the Assam Government is trying its best to keep the air-strip at Shella.

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Sir, I do not know whether the Hon'ble Finance Minister understood me correctly. What I stated is this that most of the orange groves died and the crop is very very small. I wish he should go with me and visit the areas where the orange groves have been dying.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Why they have been dying ?

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY :** Because people living on the border areas do not get enough money to upkeep their growth. By selling oranges and other things they could collect only a very small amount of money.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :** Yes Sir, I quite appreciate what the hon. Member has stated. I am going to see the orange groves hereafter. But I am thinking what purpose would be served if the people do not use manures with a view to upkeep the growth of the orange groves? There is enough manure. Perhaps manure does not reach the proper quarter.

Then, Sir, I would like to say that of all places in Assam, I find the people of Shillong are lagging behind in the matter of co-operation with each other. This is even found amongst venerable people and people with position. Perhaps it is not at all a good picture.

So, Sir, if manure does not reach the growers of oranges, we take note of that and we shall do all that is possible for us to do. But I take this opportunity of requesting.....

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunjee (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** On a point of information, Sir, I said that manure is meant for the paddy fields in Jowai as was stated by my Friend, Mr. Khyriem, the other day and not for oranges.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMA :** I quite understand that, Sir, although I do not know much about agriculture. I know this little thing that bonemeal is quite good for oranges also. However, Sir, all the oranges are not wasting as has been said—may be in the interior or in the remote villages the people are finding difficulty in disposing of their oranges ; I do not want to minimise the miseries of the people in the border areas, but what I want to say is that the Government are trying their level best to bring succour to the people who wanted and need succour. At the same time Government also earnestly requests, seeks, entreats for co-operation of the leaders of the hills people in their efforts to do all that is possible for the hills people.

Sir, the question of coal was mentioned. Before I go into the figures regarding coal, I would like to remind my hon. Friends, those who come up to Shillong by this Gauhati-Shillong Road, how many trucks were there 4 years ago, 3 years ago, 2 years ago and to-day ? The number to-day has immensely increased that it is well nigh unsafe for private cars to negotiate on this road and one has to be extra careful. Now, Sir, having cited this important point, let me now come to figures. Sir, as

regards Khasi coal, we have really been instructed that it is of second class nature, there is too much sulphur in it and as a result there is also less demand for it. But all the same the Assam Government is trying its best to induce prospective buyers—tea planters, steamer companies, railway companies and other buyers of coal to go in more for Khasi coal. Now the figures will show that in 1953 only 36,000 tons of coal was operated, 78,000 tons in 1954, in 1955 one lakh tons and the present estimate stands at 10,20,000 tons. It is true, Sir, that trucks which carry this coal to Gauhati return empty to Shillong, but as has already been said by my Friend the Minister for Planning and Development the other day, negotiations are going on as to how to ply these trucks more economically keeping in view the fact that the State Transport may not have its income dwindled thereby. Now, having passed from the Khasi and Jaintia border, let me come to Garo Hills.

Regarding Garo Hills, there again the Ayyangar Committee recommended subsidy of rice. So in 1953-54 we gave subsidy to the tune of Rs.43,000, in 1954-55 we had to subsidise Rs.66,000, in 1955-56 Rs.73,000 and in 1956-57 Rs.10,46,000 were spent.

***Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** May we know, Sir, whether these coal collieries in the Khasi Hills or the coal that is carried to Gauhati run by the Government?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMA (Minister, Finance): Sir, out of respect to the hon. Member himself I would not answer that question for the simple reason that the hon. Member is expected to know of it much better. Now, Sir, rice is sold at Garo Hills in the Fair Price Shops at Rs.18 per maund. Rice disposed in this way is 5,000 maunds for April, 6,000 maunds for May, 20,000 maunds for June and there are 24 centres being opened for locating these fair price shops. Besides that, kerosene, salt and sugar are also being supplied at subsidy rate. The House will be pleased to note that a sum of Rs.15,00,000 has been set apart for this item. Then again in Garo Hills there are two major road projects covering 77 miles costing Rs.11 lakhs. One is the Dalu-Baghmara Road 44 miles and the other is the Phulbari-Garobandha Road 33 miles. This length of 77 miles is now jeepable. Agricultural loan also has been issued to the people in Garo Hills which amounted to Rs.37,000 in the last two years and Rs.1,000 is granted as cattle loan on personal security. If I remember aright, the hon. Member from Garo Hills complained that since the people have no security it is therefore difficult for them to get this

loan. So Government arranged to see that those people who have no security to offer, can be given the loan they require without any other security than personal security. This loan amounted to Rs.20,000.

My Friend, Capt. Sangma, complained of another thing. Let us examine it. He said, "Rs.50,000 worth of cloth is given but they cannot give us gratuitous relief by way of rice". Now, let us recall this incident of distribution of cloth to the tune of Rs.50,000 to our Garo brethren. What happened, Sir, in 1953? A Resolution was tabled on the Floor of this House recommending that cloth should be given free to the Garo population with a view to induce them to put on more clothing—some of them used very scanty clothing and therefore, they should be given clothings absolutely free. The Chief Minister was in complete sympathy with that Resolution and agreed to do it; so on his assurance that cloth would be distributed free to the population in Garo Hills, the Resolution was withdrawn. Thereafter the Deputy Commissioner with local Members of the Legislative Assembly drew up a scheme. The scheme was submitted to the Government and Government consulted the local Members of the Legislative Assembly from Garo Hills before finalisation of the scheme. When the scheme was finalised Government purchased cloth worth Rs.50,000 to be distributed in pursuance of the assurance given by the Chief Minister. Then suddenly a message was received from the Garo Hills. Hon. Members like Capt. Sangma and others thought that if Garo people go with scanty clothing, it is not for want of cloth so much as for their backwardness and that if education is imparted to them, even if no cloth be given, they will begin to wear cloth. Sir, that may be a very good idea. But I am not going into the merit of that. Let us remember that Government accepted the idea of providing free cloth to Garo Hills and the Resolution was withdrawn, the scheme was drawn up by the Deputy Commissioner and in consultation with local Members of the Legislative Assembly, accepted the scheme and purchased the cloth. Do you think that Government will throw away the cloth to the lake or give it to somewhere else? Any way, Government said 'alright we agree to give as much help towards education as it is possible; but then let cloths be given, that is the complaint by Captain Williamson Sangma which he placed before this House by way of saying that they do not want to understand the people, they do not understand the sentiments of the people, they do not care to know the basic needs of the people. Sir, is this not basic need that cloth was going to be given to the half-naked brothers and sisters? If it is not, we can only regret that in that case what can we do?

Then there is another item which he has put forward very strongly and it seems on the fact of it if what he said was correct, the matter is really difficult to understand. The matter is one which all right-thinking people will consider; yet this Government of Assam is called villains and taking advantage of the simplicity of the Hills people they are trying to exploit them! He said, when district councils were formed for the first time and primary education became a subject under the jurisdiction of the district councils, Assam Government, villainously wanted to snatch away this lower primary education from the jurisdiction of the district councils and they wanted to run the lower primary schools in a way, it has not been stated clearly by him but it was said in such a way that Assam Government wanted by this to take away the children of the Hills to their views. But what are the facts? When the district councils were formed for the first time, Assam Government wrote to the Deputy Commissioners to find out the views of the district councils, I repeat, to find out the views of the district councils, as to whether the district councils would like to run the lower primary schools on their own account but if the district councils for want of money or any other reason would like to leave the running of the lower primary schools with the Assam Government, and if they like the latter the Assam Government, would be glad to run them. I do not like to dilate on the subject but I want to read the resolution of the Garo Hills District Council. This is an extract from the proceedings of the district council from the first session of it held on Monday, 12th May 1952, at 11 a. m. at the District Council Office, Tura:—

In connection with the motion moved by Mr. H.W. Momin and adopted unanimously by the district council, the resolution reads:—

“That under paragraph 6 of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India this resolution empowers the District Council to establish and manage this Council and in view of inadequate fund it will not be in a position to manage all the existing primary schools and to arrange changes this Council therefore opined that the State Government of Assam may except for envisaging general policy in respect of primary education, power to envisage in which language the primary education will be run, be pleased to take full responsibility of financial implications and administration and inspection of all the existing primary schools of this district through its (State Government's) existing agencies. This Council further undertakes to make sincere efforts within its financial limits

either to establish or give grant-in-aid to as many primary schools as may be possible and appoint an additional inspecting staff and officers whenever necessity arises."

Sir, is this an attempt to suppress the Hills people? Is this an effort to treat the district councils like foreigners? Let the hon. Members from Hills answer. Let the House judge. The Government wanted whether the District Councils will be in a position to take up these primary schools or whether they would like to handover them for management by the State Government. The District Councils accepted by a resolution unanimously passed that the primary schools would be handed over to the State Government reserving to themselves, certain powers, such as, policy and language. Sir, is this cheating the Hills brethren or is it trying to help out and out the District Council?

Sir, this is an instance for Captain Williamson Sangma to prove that Assam Government is trying to treat the District Councils as foreigners.

There is yet another point, which I want to reply. Unfortunately, Sir, Captain Williamson Sangma is not present in the House. Sir, it is no blame on Captain Williamson Sangma if he has to consult the English dictionary to find out the meaning of the word 'patriotic' because foreign domination for nearly 200 years has reduced us to a plight which drives us to consult dictionaries, to consult foreign agencies, but I will give him the answer. Is it patriotic if Captain Williamson Sangma asks for a Hill State tomorrow, from the Finance Minister of Assam whoever he may be, as I am here to-day and I may not be here tomorrow, the Finance Minister will call him a patriot or enemy? It is not upto me to call him a patriot or call him as enemy because it would be his choice to say whether he wants a Hill State or whether he wants to be ruled by the Centre or whether to ask to work shoulder to shoulder in collaboration with the State Government of Assam. But when he said that the misguided Naga youths were patriotic in their mischievous move, I want to say whether my Friend, Captain Sangma, is under the intoxication of liquor or Ganja (Bhang) when he says all these things. If my Friend is under the intoxication of liquor or Ganja and if he says or does anything under such influence—should we call him a patriot? I admit, Sir, misguided as he is under such influence, Captain Sangma will not be led away by these things, but I hope he will consider these things deeply not in a feeling of frustration, not in a feeling of anger. Sir, if my Friend thinks that the hills can form themselves to be a self-sufficient State, if

they consider in that line, we can only regret. I hope, Sir, my Friend will consider all these pros and cons. What would the Finance Minister say if he is asked to give a separate Hills State? The Finance Minister of a State may be now here and tomorrow who knows whether he will be a Finance Minister of the State? Sir, Captain Sangma goes on to say that the Assamese people have taken away everything from the hills people. Let us take for instance-Shillong itself. Let us take from a wide policy. There are few officers and few clerks. Would the hon. Member think that some Pakistani fellow doing business here in Shillong, or some other people from outside, or perhaps a small family or a small group of business people-take away more than 50 per cent of the total income of these few officers and clerks in Shillong? Would my Friend call that exploitation? Pardon me, Sir, if I speak a little aloud about my Friend, Captain Sangma. Captain Sangma is not here, it would have been better if he would be here to hear my statement. It would be found that there is no question of exploitation although there is little misunderstanding or some aspect of the problem needs adjustment; except this, I find there is nothing more.

Sir, under the Sixth Schedule there is provision for the appointment of a Commission to advise on the working of the Sixth Schedule. Sir, the Government will have no objection if the Governor will appoint such a Commission to do the needful. Then again, Sir, the Assam Government, will not object to have a Commission from outside, if persons like Shri Kaka Kalel Kar, Shri Kant, known as social workers with great records and are persons held in the highest esteem all over India and in foreign countries are included in that Commission. If such persons are here to give their valuable advice we shall certainly be most happy to have them amongst us to solve the problem of our brethren in the hills arising out of pure misunderstanding.

We are here, Sir, for a few years only, so let us not act according to our vanity and pleasure. Having said so, Sir, I will now traverse quickly to another important item regarding the food problem.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I speak a few words, Sir? I must congratulate the Finance Minister in his speech. To-day there is hope of discussing the misunderstanding by approaching the hills leaders. That is well and good, although we do not agree with the figures, but since he has stated that he would do his best to clear the misunderstanding, his attitude is greatly appreciated by me personally.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): Sir, I appreciate the sentiment expressed by the hon. Member.

With regard to food problem I will confine myself to reply to certain points only that have been raised by the hon. Members in this House. No doubt there are mistakes and lapses. I will elaborate certain points with a view only to clear the feeling of the representatives of the people as to how they have been misguided by making representation or allegation against the Government. Sir, I admit the food situation in our State, I admit also that the prices are high that these are beyond the reach of a large number of cross section of the people. I admit also that in the hills areas there are great difficulties and distress. I submit, Sir, that a big amount of rice has been imported in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district. During the last two weeks about 15,000 maunds of rice were brought to Shillong from the Central Government stock at Rs.18 per maund. The cost price of the rice here would be between Rs.30 and Rs.32 per maund. The Government of India has to purchase the rice round about Rs.32 per maund. So Sir, these 15,000 mds. have been brought to the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district and a large number of fair price shops have been opened. Here in Shillong I have to say with regret that we are not getting sincere co-operation from the retailers. I admit there must be some difficulties from the retailers, in other places too. Let us say that in regard to this problem the public men are misled, the newspapers are misled by the incorrect reports from the interiors and even Rev. Roy also can be misled like this by incorrect reports, others also can be misled.

I will now read the letter from Rev. Roy—

“From Rev. J. J M. Nichols-Roy, M.L.A.,
South East Mawkhar,
Shillong, Assam.

Dated Shillong, 27th May, 1957.

To

The Minister-in-charge, Tribal Welfare of
the Hills Districts,
Shillong.

Sir,

I am writing to you for quick action to be taken in regard to the Garos who fled from Pakistan to Laharpany, a village in the Bhowal Syiemship near Balat Bazar. They are now in a starving condition. Many of them have no food to eat.

They live on jungle roots and leaves. There are some Garos in the village Jumaduar in Maharam Syiemship also who are in the same condition.

When I heard this, I sent one of my Christian Leaders from village Raibah named U Shondrell to go to the Laharpany. He has given me a report which is heart-rending. I received on the 23rd May, 1957. The report is written in Khasi. I have had it typed—I am keeping the original letter with me.

The 286 persons in Laharpany area need immediate relief otherwise many will die. Some already died in 1956.

The said messenger also reported about U Indro (Garos) who came from Pakistan with 22 persons in one house—with children of 2, 4 and 6 years old. They have no food—they live on jungle things. Then he has reported also about Garos from a village named Jamuduar, Maharam Syiemship. Some Garos in that village also are in a starving condition.

I am sending a copy of this to the Chief Minister and also to the Deputy Commissioner, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills for taking immediate action.

Kindly do the needful immediately.

Yours faithfully,

Sd./- J. J. M. Nichols-Roy."

Copy forwarded to—

1. The Chief Minister of Assam for favour of quick action and to order for relief.
2. The Deputy Commissioner, United Khasi-Jaintia Hills to send relief.
3. Chief Executive Member, District Council, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills."

Sir, out of frankness he has sent the report along with the letter. There is no reflection on his frankness and sincerity. In the report it had been mentioned that it was only due to poverty which they had in 1956. It said that he went inside their houses and found they had no paddy. They were living a most miserable life.

Sir, even a hard heart would melt when one hears such reports—the report that our poor brethren migrating from Pakistan to Indian Union are faced with this miserable plight. He has given a list of persons, but I will not take the time of the House by reading the names here.

Sir, a Khasi Sub-Deputy Collector was deputed. He submitted a long report and in that report he said that there was nobody in that village who was starving, and that the house mentioned there had a big family. There were 32 heads of cattle. They were cultivators, they had paddy and that they offered good tea to the Sub-Deputy Collector.

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Sir, I am glad that the Finance Minister has read out some portion of the report. What I mean to say that I got a report that the report of the Sub-Deputy Collector was not correct and that the people were actually suffering.....

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :** Sir, if the hon. Member is not satisfied with the report of the Sub-Deputy Collector, let me read the relevant portion of the report of Mr. Booth, the Deputy Commissioner of the district of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Sir, we cannot manufacture a man to the satisfaction of the hon. Member. The Deputy Commissioner's report is—"In connection with....."

***Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) :** Sir, there is no use reading the report ; he may say the contents.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, I will only read. Mr. Nongbri's report is (from Deputy Commissioner's report) in full detail and he has made this after a house to house inspection. Mr. Nongbri found no case of starvation, and he also found that there was no ground to give gratuitous relief.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : He says that the Sub-Deputy Collector did not go.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Then let Mr. Jahanuddin go, Sir (*laughter*). Sir, this is a report of the Deputy Commissioner. There may be starvation elsewhere and as a matter of fact in this country there may be cases where people might be starving. It is indeed a fact. There is starvation among the black-marketers who are lamenting for want of rice to hoard (*laughter*) (*interruptions*)....

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY :** Sir, a non-official committee composed of officials and non-officials could have made an enquiry, when the reports were found to be contradictory.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Sir, here I want to make it clear that like almost all the hon. Members including Rev. Roy of this House who have come to this House through the pleasure of the voters, have to lend ears to what is stated by our supporters although sometimes these things may not be quite correct. This is also true in respect of supply C. I. Sheets, cement, etc., (*interruptions*). Sir, I do not cite this in order to make a reflection on the hon. Member. I mentioned the report only to show how sometimes we are misled.

Sir, undoubtedly the price of rice has gone up and it is beyond the means of the poorer section of the people (*interruptions*). Sometimes we wonder where do the paddy and rice go. We had better production last year, and as a matter of fact, Sri Krishnappa, the Union Deputy Minister, pointed this out to me the other day. I told him that the shortage might be due to the fact that some people were holding back the stock for bad days, some paddy and rice might have been smuggled to Pakistan.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): Some might have been consumed by rats also (*laughter*).

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : May be, Sir, (*laughter*) (*interruptions*). There is a saying in our language which means when one falls in bad days even the pariah dog does not give the way (*laughter*).

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : All that he was going to say is that he is not satisfied with the reports of the Officers.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, in the Democratic system of Government, it is easier for the hon. Members in the Opposition to make out points and urge upon conditions which they themselves cannot perform or act up to when they may come to power (*interruption*).

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : My Friend should not draw any inference that because we are in the Opposition we are making out points.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, I am not saying so. What I mean to say that when my Friend from Karimganj said that he was not satisfied with the report

of the Deputy Commissioner, with all humility I submitted that if he came to power he would have to also run the administration with these officers—the Deputy Commissioner, Sub-Divisional Officers, Sub-Deputy Collectors and so on. These Officers cannot be metamorphosed when they come to this side of the House (*interruptions*).

Sir, I am afraid I will have to continue till tomorrow. About 42 hon. Members have taken part in the budget discussion and I shall not be able to do justice to them if I am not given some time more.

Mr. SPEAKER : Hon. Members know that tomorrow is a recess day. Then we will have to wait till day after tomorrow, *i.e.*, Thursday.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** If the hon. Members be only gracious to bear with me till half-past five, I will try to finish by that time.

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the pleasure of the House : Should we sit till 5-30 ?

(*Voices : Day after to-morrow.*)

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** But day after tomorrow there will be voting on demands.

Mr. SPEAKER : That is our difficulty. May I know how long the Hon'ble Finance Minister will take to finish his observations ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** It all depends on how many points I am required to reply. I may cut down my speech to 35-40 minutes. In that case many hon. Members will not expect me to reply on all the points that have been raised. Therefore I do not want to disappoint them.

Mr. SPEAKER : The problem is that we have voting on demands on 20th June. So unless we cut down discussion on the demands for grants we cannot finish them by 4.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Sir, we might sit tomorrow for an hour or so.

Mr. SPEAKER : We can sit day after tomorrow a bit earlier, that is at 9 A.M.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): We will get time after the question hour.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): Make it 9-30 A.M.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you want to do away with the question hour? The demand for grant shall have to be finished by 4 o'clock.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): We may sit up to 5 today and at 9-30 day after tomorrow.

Mr. SPEAKER: Very well let us sit up to 5 to-day.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): Hills I have nearly done. Except touching on those points of the individual Members, the broad outlines of Hills I have done.

If the House will permit me I would not also take much time in respect of food, because we are anticipating a full dress debate on it. I will cut down my observation with your permission by saying that the price is having a downward trend, that the demand on mills is not keen, that there is sizeable gap between the *ex-mill* price and the retail price. Hon. Members from all sides of the House are rightly discussing the point that the prices have gone high and that people are feeling distress. By way of an illustration I would just read a telegram I received last evening. It is from Sri Krishna Goswami of Kampur, a responsible social worker. He has sent a telegram like this: "No rain in Kampur. All cultivation totally stopped. People facing starvation. Cheap grain shop solicited—Krishna Goswami". No rain at Kampur! Sir, look at the vagaries of nature in this benighted State to-day? While Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat and a part of Golaghat Sub-division are flooded by rain water and the rivers are in spate and the Trunk Road was under water resulting in traffic dislocation, right from somewhere in Nowgong district—a line drawn about Lumding Hojai and Kampur there is no rain!! It is only about 500 miles from Sadiya to the border of Pakistan near Man-kachar and in between this distance there is such vagaries of nature. Sir, in the eastern part of the State crops have been destroyed by too much water whereas in the western part there is absolutely no water. As you know, Sir, rice is a commodity which is very limited from the consideration of world supply. Under these circumstances the Supply Department has to make Herculean efforts to keep the stream going on so that the flow of supply may not be interrupted. In certain papers it was

written that the Supply Minister rubbed his hands with the mill owners and said why not get at the neck of horders to get rice ? Sir, apart from other considerations, social, political and various other considerations, it is not very easy to find out a solution of the problem. To-day we are in the midst of a whirlpool. If we were aware of this whirlpool a few months ahead we could devise some means by which we can side-track this difficulty. But if we disturb the market to-day there may be bad results. Suppose for two weeks there is no rice in the market then there will be a big hue and cry. There will be no limit to the miseries of the people if they have to go without rice about a couple of weeks. What would they do ? So we are in a delicate position and we do not want to disturb it. Even from that stand point we are going on expanding the number of rice millers. But I may state that if the *ex-mill* price of rice is fixed at some level then the retail sellers will fix it at somewhat higher level. How can that be averted ? This can be averted through the co-operation of the good citizens. We have not advanced much from the days of the last great war when money was cheap and conscience did not prick us to make easy money. That spirit still continues and though our people are suffering, our shopkeepers are making easy money by raising price level. I appeal to the hon. Members to think as to how we can so arrange matters with the retail sellers so that we can get rice at reasonable price and they can at the same time keep some reasonable profit. If the *ex-mill* price is say Rs.21, the retail sale price is about Rs.23-8-0 or so. To overcome this large difference we are contemplating to issue loan for forming consumers co-operatives to take up this business. In that case the Government will issue loan to the extent of 10 times of their capital. The public spirited people of a locality can come forward and take part in the formation of such consumers co-operatives. I find many consumers co-operatives thriving and still now we get supply of rice and other commodities like salt, sugar, kerosene, etc., from some of them at reasonable price.

I find that we have about 1,000 consumers co-operatives throughout the State. If we can have another equal number of such consumers co-operatives in all the Subdivisions to a great extent the question of unemployment problem will be solved by engaging one or two persons in whole time jobs, paying at least Rs.30 per month. Such co-operatives can perhaps keep their shops open for 2 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the evening. To solve the problem I find no way out than to work on this line.

In Shillong what we find in this respect? The other day to the shop just near the Civil Secretariat attached to the Cafeteria about 40 bags of rice were sent for selling at fair price rate of Rs.18. The Food Inspector, Mr. Mahatab—a decent youngman

—of the Central Government got information that the shopkeeper had not got all the bags with him and the next morning he went to enquire the matter. The key was missing at the time. Afterwards the shopkeeper arrived and the key was found after a search. In the presence of the Food Inspector and a Sub-Inspector of Police when the shop was opened some 10 to 12 bags of rice were found missing and as a result a large number of persons who came to get the rice from this fair price shop had to go back disappointed. When the shopkeeper—a Khasi lady—was questioned about the missing bags she replied that after taking delivery she sent all the bags in pony carts and she did not accompany them and she did not know how this shortage in bags had occurred. When she was questioned whether she counted or not the bags before payment was made to the pony cart owners for carrying the rice bags, she replied that she did not do so. When this happened in the premises of the Secretariat building I got the report and came myself to the scene at 6 O'clock in the afternoon and I sent for the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police to take up the matter. If such a thing can happen in the heart of the capital what worse can happen in the distant villages we can well imagine. To avoid such things I hope Rev. Nichols-Roy would take some trouble to depute some Christian leaders to the villages to ask people to form consumers co-operatives which is very necessary now-a-days. If we do not have consumers co-operatives, I believe we cannot tackle this rice problem.....

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North): What about Hayley's Co-operative system ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** We do not have sufficient interest and faith in such Co-operative. Let us not blame the Co-operative. Let us not blame anybody. If an expert goes into the whole thing in Assam he will find that in such Co-operative what is necessary is that spirit, that intelligence, and that faith to make it success. But all these are lacking now-a-days. Hayley had a zeal to work. He himself with his wife stayed in an interior village in Sibsagar District for about 7 days. How many of our officers are found to have remained in the villages for so long a time like this. I appreciate him for his services.

With these few words for the present I want to conclude in respect of food.

Next important item after food is education. My Friend, Shri Chetia, Deputy Minister, gave an idea on education. A

pertinent question was asked by a certain Member from the Opposition side, "Are you satisfied with the Pay Committee's recommendations for the teachers?" The answer is: "Certainly not, definitely not". I give an answer that the recommendations of the Pay Commission do not satisfy us. Even they do not satisfy the Commission itself. But under the circumstances that was the best that they could do. There is nothing static, nothing final.

The hon. Member from Silchar also raised a point regarding the discrepancy in the scale of pay of certain categories of teachers. Not only in certain categories of teachers but in other categories also we find some anomalies or discrepancies after meeting a deputation. Such a thing can happen after carrying out such a stupendous task by one Committee which too had to be done a bit hurriedly as the Committee had to attend to some other functions also. Though we are not satisfied with its recommendations yet the Committee had gone to the extent they could keeping in view of the finance of the State. Let us remember that we are now dealing with a Department which is a nation building department with a large number of employees. On the one hand we are to look after our teachers who build up our next generation, who would be ruling this country tomorrow. On the other hand their number is no less small that we can afford to pay them adequately in the circumstances. For their sacrifice we would only say that we would make our humble effort to relieve the burden which they have been shouldering.

Sir, we are at the present moment contemplating to give the lower primary school teachers a dearness allowance amounting to Rs.5 per head per month. Some of my Friends may say, "Oh, only five rupees; you are very generous". But let me tell them that dearness allowance at the rate of Rs.5 per head would involve us in an expenditure of Rs.12 lakhs, if not more, in the face of our cash balance of Rs.27 lakhs only. This is not to say that the hard condition of other teachers, *viz.*, Middle Vernacular, Middle English and Aided High School teachers, is not engaging the attention of Government.

***Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West):** My submission was that the qualifications for senior trained female teachers are the same as the normal passed male teachers. But there is a difference in their pay scales and the female teachers have submitted a representation to the Government.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Even before the hon. Member raised this point, this matter as also some other matters are engaging the attention of Government. Nevertheless I can say, Sir, that when any hon. Member points out any anomalies or raises any other point, they receive the very anxious consideration of Government and I have every hope that within the period of time when we meet again for the next Budget Session, this anomaly would be removed.

The next point I would deal with is prohibition. We are taking to prohibition on a gradual and progressive scale. We have not abandoned prohibition; on the contrary, we are making efforts how best to extend it to other neighbouring subdivisions. But, Sir, this *pachai*, as they call it, perhaps we call it *laopani* is possibly a necessity. Of course, I am not sure if I can say that it is a necessity, but it is prepared in their own houses by the tribal people of both plains and hills, and it has got some food value also. In these circumstances, Government are not sure whether it would not be premature to take any step towards interference with this amenity, if I may say so, of our tribal brethren. This is the Government's position, Sir.

There is yet another small matter which has been touched by some members from the Cachar District. As they feel very deeply about it and since several members have spoken about it, I think I should deal with it as a general subject. It is about an engineering or technical institute in Cachar. At present there is a junior technical school at Arunachal, which is proposed to be shifted to Meherpur. The school offers two years' training for under-Matric students. This has caused us nearly Rs.5 odd lakhs till now. There is a provision of Rs.9.54 lakhs in the State Second Plan to develop this institution. The school will have its own land and buildings and for this money has been provided. A plot of 30 bighas is being acquired at Meherpur for the purpose of the school. In no distant future we hope that the institute will be upgraded. There is yet another institute at Srikona. This school was started by the Community Projects Department. It has since been taken over by the State Education Department. Financial assistance from the Ministry of Labour has been assured on 60:40 basis for development of the Srikona institution for introducing craftsmen training courses of All-India standard laid down by the Director General of Resettlement and Employment. The training at Srikona will be intensive and the course will be for one and half years. The State Second Plan contains a provision of about Rs.11.7 lakhs for the Srikona institute. When the

two institutions at Srikona and Meherpur are fully developed, it will be easier to upgrade one into a full-fledged Diploma institution for post-Matric courses. The State Government are committed to spend a total sum of Rs.21 lakhs approximately for development of technical education and training in the Cachar District out of the Second Plan provision. I hope, Sir, for the time being that will be taken as a token of Assam Government's earnest efforts to build up the Cachar District in technical education and also in various other ways.

Then, Sir, there is yet another point I need touch and that with regard to the backward classes. In the Second Five Year Plan, the planners have included under this category all communities, and castes which are considered socially and educationally backward. It will be recollected that there was a Backward Classes Commission, which was also called the Kaka Kalelkar Commission, after the name of its Chairman Kaka Kalelkar. I need not introduce Kaka Kalelkar because the hon. Members, I anticipate, know him well. That Commission submitted a lengthy report which is under the examination of the Government of India. I can take the House into confidence when I say that Kaka Kalelkar and his Backward Classes Commission have given an excellent report for the upliftment of the backward classes in India and we, in Assam, will have no hesitation in accepting all the recommendations of the Backward Classes Commission as approved of by the Government of India. Meanwhile, scholarships have been granted rather liberally to backward class students. If I remember aright, hon. Member, Mr. Tudu, or may be someone else—I speak subject to correction said, “Yes, scholarships are given, but they are not always given on merit”. Sir, I would only say that scholarships are given by people who do not know the applicants personally. If there is a lacuna and if the deserving students do not get it, than we ourselves are to be blamed. The only thing we can do is to see that fair deal is given to everyone.

It is 5 O' Clock, Sir. I think I have nearly finished all the general points.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 9-30 A.M. on Thursday, the 20th June, 1957.

Shillong :

The 26th December, 1957.

R. N. BARUA

Secretary,

Legislative Assembly, Assam.