

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

VOLUME I

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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 9-30 A. M. on Thursday, the 20th June, 1957.

PRESENT

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

General Discussion on the Budget

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Finance Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day I was prevailed to the best of my ability to reply to the points raised by various hon. Members of this House in respect of hills and some other interest which were alluded to by a considerable number of Members. There is yet another point of a general interest which was pointed out to me. I think I should refer to it. This is unemployment. Unemployment roughly, by and large, may prevail in our State. I would like to divide it into three categories, *viz.*,—(i) educated, (ii) education of middle standard which is generally called under-Matriculate and (iii) category is of the rural population—peasants and workers. As regards educated, it is a fact that there is considerable unemployment. I am sorry to have to mention that some of our good students passing M. A., are going from door to door and are not finding accommodation. The employment potentiality in our State is very limited, as, in a sense, there is no industry in our State. The Railways with their headquarters outside the State do not do justice to the educated young men of this State. The position in the Posts and Telegraphs Department was slightly better, and that is due to our Union Minister, Shri Jagjiwan Ram, who is more sympathetic to this neighbouring State, as he is a man from Bihar. I hope and trust that sympathy will be continued. At the present moment in respect of other big industries managed by Central Government or quasi-managed industries, our unemployed young men

are not finding adequate employment. The State Government is alert about this and it is proposed to take up this matter with the Central Government.

As regards those privately owned big industries, trade and commerce where there are employment potentiality, Assam pays the piper, but unfortunately Assam cannot or has not yet been in a position to call for the tune. Let us take for example, the Steamer Company. The Steamer Company is making a huge profit out of their trade in Assam, but very few of our educated young men get employment. In the Agency Houses in Calcutta, particularly Tea, our unemployed people do not find any opportunity. They get no entrance even in Assam in tea estates in the name of Indianisation. A considerable number of educated unemployed people of Assam do not find any employment there. Somehow or other there are 'pools' on the Agency Houses in Calcutta from other quarters, and Assamese unemployed educated people are denied the advantage. I had the opportunity to carry on correspondence with a very few big bosses of tea industry in my capacity as an M. P., when I pointed out to certain European gentlemen who had some influence over the Agency Houses that if our educated young men could get opportunity they, could justify their position. But the tea magnets either choose their assistant managers out of those who can smatter cockneyed or broken English, or those who are lucky, at the cost of our educated unemployed people. When I pointed out such things no reply came from the gentlemen. Later on we find that these were the handicaps. The Government is not unaware of the difficulty and will be alert about it.

Then as regards the second category, under-Matriculate along with the agriculturists, peasants and workers under the third category, I may not be misunderstood when I say that there is till now that intensity of unemployment which prevails in our State. There is scope for employment if we would be only working a little hard. I am not talking from a parochial sense, but if you would look around you will see that it is not only in the supply side but in other things also there is ample scope for our young men—whether it is fuel or milk, whether it is grocery or such other things. Those of our young men who have not been lucky enough to pass Matriculation—if they only took to these trades and callings and occupations, I have no

manner of doubt that they would not have remained unemployed. Particularly in Upper Assam Districts and also perhaps to a lesser degree in lower part of Assam, whenever we want to do anything which needs manual labour, we have to look to outside labour than local labour. Anything between 1-2 crores of earthwork is being done in Assam every year and I would not exaggerate if I say that 90 per cent of the total amount goes out of the four corners of the State. And those people who come from outside to do earthwork in Assam also belong to good families such as Gossain, Bhuyan, etc. People belonging to different stratas of society come and do earthwork here but our people are not used to this work. There was Sramik Bahini organized by Sri Bimala Prasad Chaliha, President, A. P. C. C. and Sri P. C. Barua, President, Sibsagar D. C. C. and they did a little work. This humble self also tried in Majuli to persuade people to do earthwork so that they would earn a great deal of amount which is being spent by our State Government. I cannot claim that I attained any appreciable measure of success, but I have reason to believe that the position is improving. Therefore in the matter of unemployment all categories of people and particularly the popular leaders of all shades of opinion have to be alert and have to do what is needed in various circumstances.

Sir, having said so I will try to make a few observations in regard to the hon. Members who took part in this debate. A large number of hon. Members participated in this debate and I am happy to be able to reiterate that the criticisms were mostly constructive.

Jonab Jahanuddin Ahmed from Bilasipara mentioned that it is due to the weak policy of the Government that we are not having the railway link stabilized or strengthened, that we are not having a bridge on the Brahmaputra and that our bottleneck is continuing. I submit, Sir, this Government has left no stone unturned to get the railway communications improved. That applies to the Brahmaputra bridge also and if a personal reference is excused, the hon. Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha during last five years including you, Sir, waited upon deputations on the Railway Minister and other high-ranking officers—I mean the Railway Board—and tried to do their level best. Every time we have assurances and at the same time the difficulties of the Government of India are also pointed out. Although we have not attained what we have striven for, it cannot be said that Government or the representatives of the State to the Parliament have neglected their duty.

As regards the Fakiragram-Bongaigaon-Amingaon Section of the Link, it is under consideration of stabilisation.

Regarding the Pandu-Amjanga Section : those 57 miles to Garo Hills, survey is being carried out and we hope that in no distant future we shall have this railway so that the mineral wealth and the forest produces of that hill may be exploited to the advantage of the State.

Shri Pakhirai Deka mentioned about Lower Primary Schools in the plain districts the condition not being very good and the Lower Primary School teachers' pay not being adequate. He also mentioned about tribal areas where the money is alleged to be misused. I submit, Sir, Tribals need further schools and there is provision in the Second Five-Year Plan for improvement of 700 schools in the plains areas and a further 200 in the plains tribal areas under the first scheme and 200 in Sixth Schedule Areas. If the grants-in-aid are misused and if the hon. Members would point out things in his capacity as an M. L. A., Government would be only too pleased to take note of those references and will try to do their best. He also mentioned about cattle epidemic in Mangaldai. It is unfortunate that there is large scale cattle mortality in the riverain tracts of both sides of the Brahmaputra, and attention of the Government has been drawn not only to Mangaldai but to other tracts where the cattle has been practically wiped out. This is very unfortunate indeed. Government is trying to strengthen the Veterinary Department which was in a moribund condition. As regards Mangaldai, vaccine serums and other medicines were sent on receipt of information. I hope and trust that this area is getting succour now.

Shri Durgeswar Saikia mentioned about removal of corruption and appointment of a whole-time Minister for anti-corruption work. Sir, nobody would welcome it more than the Government and Government are trying to do their level best in this regard but we have two difficulties, not very generally but in cases we find that the fencing which is put up for the protection of the crop starts eating the crop. In this the evil can be eradicated only if popular leaders rather not always talk of corruption but lend their helping hands to the removal of this. If they go on talking of corruption, things would not improve. I may be excused if I give vent to my feeling that by talking of corruption we do not remove corruption but we make corrupt people shameless. Those who indulge in corrupt practices become void of shame and they do not care for the

social stigma if we always go on talking of corruption. Therefore, rather than talking about it very often let us help towards eradication of it. In this, non-officials and hon. Members of this House can do more than the Government. Government, of course, will take into serious note of those incidents which may be pointed out by the hon. Members in this House or gentlemen outside.

Another point the same hon. Member mentioned is about surplus tea labour. There are surplus tea labourers and unhappily more labourers are also indented every year. When the representatives of the Government talk about this to the tea people, they say that labourers do not move. The only solution of moving these *ex*-labourers is to do it in a planned way. Of course for that there is not enough land. Therefore what will have to be done by Government and what Government propose to do is to settle in a planned way when they can take to cottage industries and also to cash crops. But let me again submit, Sir, that these things cannot be done overnight, it is a very difficult job, it will take a considerable time. He mentioned that free education should be given to pupils in this areas. I submit, Sir, that is a healthy suggestion. But where is the wherewithal to do it? All the same his suggestion will be taken into consideration by the Government.

Then, Sir, I propose to deal with a very important observation made by Shri Dandeswar Hazarika. He mentioned that there were ravages in the Naga Hills borders. I myself went to those places last year (where villages were burnt down) with a view to meet the people living in those border areas. That is really unfortunate, but both the Central Government and the State Government are doing their level best to meet the situation. I hope it will be appreciated by the hon. Member and others. He further mentioned that our supply of food to the Naga Hills is another contributory cause for the shortage of food-stuff in our State. Sir it is so partially but not directly because the Central Government are supplying or, may I say so, are going to supply the food that is necessary for the Naga Hills—that comes to about 7,000 tons in paddy and rice from the Central Government supply and we shall have to contribute. But, as I said, this is partially true because not only the armed constabulary or the armed forces are there but also other paraphernalia which have to be fed in connection with the operations in the Naga Hills. Then, Sir, he said that the second Five-Year Plan is the most burning problem and also unemployment of under-matrices is another question which needs

close attention. Nobody would deny, Sir, that a very great deal depends on the successful completion of the Second Five-Year Plan and today all of us must have to bend our energies to the utmost.

Sir, hon. Shri Surendra Nath Das mentioned about the bridge over the Kaldia river as also the Nityananda-Sadari Road—these are in progress. He further mentioned about prohibition and said that the 2½ seers limit allowed to Plains Tribals should be withdrawn. Government will consider this question and examine it in all its aspects. I said earlier that Government are not sure if any drastic step in matter of prohibition amongst tribals would not be premature at this stage. He mentioned that the help granted to the Khadi and Village Industry are inadequate. Let him judge from the figures that I am going to give now whether that is so. Sir, the Board received from the State Government in 1956-57 Rs. 57,000, grant from the All-India Board Rs. 4,17,000 and by loans Rs. 8,91,000—total Rs. 13,65,000. Let my Friend judge whether really paucity of funds stands in the way in the working of this Board. He also mentioned about *kala-azar* and other diseases in this area. My hon. Friend, the Medical Minister, made submission in this respect.

Sir, now I come to Shri Mathias Tudu. He as well as various other hon. Members mentioned that teachers in our Government Schools are inadequately paid. I have been told by my Friend, the Education Minister, this moment that not only the cases of Lower Primary School teachers but also of teachers in Aided Schools are getting active consideration of the Government so far their emoluments are concerned so that some further aid may be given. I hope and trust an announcement will be made within a month or six weeks. Now, Mr. Tudu mentioned about hostel facilities in schools in tribal areas. In this connection, Sir, I am glad to say that quite a sizable sum of money has been set apart for hostels in the tribal areas. We shall be able to make arrangement—if not for sufficient accommodation, but for just enough accommodation, considering the financial condition of the State, for tribal students as well as other backward people. Sir, I read in this morning newspapers that perhaps an enquiry is being started by the Central Government in the matter of award of scholarships to the backward class people because mention was made about partiality or some such thing in this connection. Then my Friend also mentioned about another very important thing, that is, that money

lenders and other officers are harassing the innocent and unsophisticated tribal people. Sir, this needs close watching. But Government hopes that with the aid of the hon. Members of this House and other public spirited people, something appreciable can be achieved. Another suggestion Shri Tudu was pleased to make and which is much appreciated by Government is that Rural Panchayats should be used as agencies for publishing Government laws and orders for the general information of the common people. Sir, as we have not got any Information Bureau, it is advisable to give more powers to our Panchayats and also to make them feel that they are useful bodies.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to conclude his observations because he has already got 2½ hours that day? I was under the impression that he would be able to finish at 10 to-day.

***Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister):** After 11, we cannot take up any more questions.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister Finance):** I will try to finish soon, Sir, but as you know as many as 45 hon. Members took part in this debate.

***Shri HARESWAR DAS :** He may be allowed time up to 10-30, Sir, because Questions won't take us long.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Sir, I now turn to Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami. He mentioned about implementation of development schemes which need strict vigilance; he also mentioned about Lower Primary School buildings in the villages: both these items are very important. Government have provided in the Second Plan to improve 700 Lower Primary School buildings at a cost of 21 lakhs. There is an additional provision of Rs. 7 lakhs under Article 275 of the Constitution to improve 200 Lower Primary School buildings in the Autonomous Districts and 200 Lower Primary School buildings in plains tribal areas.

Sir, Shri Gopesh Namasudra made mention that settlement of land has been given by Government not to the agriculturists but to the non-agriculturists. In settling lands in agricultural area, Government's policy is not to deprive agriculturists, the real tillers, in preference to the non-agriculturists. This policy is strictly followed by Government.

He also mentioned that grants were continuously given in one particular area in Cachar for the last five years but Government have taken steps to realise arrears of 9 years old. In this connection, I would say that district officers have standing instructions from Government to recommend applications for remission of land revenue on account of natural calamities and to avoid all coercive action for realisation of arrears.

Sir, Shri Gouri Shankar Roy said, the case of 8,200 retrenched labour in Cachar in 1953 is pending with Government. The case was referred to a Tripartite Committee consisting of representatives of Labour and Industry and with the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar as Chairman. No agreement was arrived at. This being an Industrial dispute the case has since been referred to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. The matter is sub-judice.

He also mentioned about the necessity of opening of two Forest Reserves in Cachar in order to give land to landless people. Government will certainly consider this matter, but my personal view is that the forest wealth should be preserved and should not be exploited for this purpose. I would urge upon the hon. Members of this House to consider whether we should preserve our forests or whether we should dereserve them and in case we dereserve, say one forest reserve to day and settle therein about 200 families, what will happen when in course of a few years, the number becomes double, where shall we settle the excess number? So, I will submit for consideration of the hon. Members that dereservation is a suicidal policy. The whole thing about this was examined after the last great war and it was considered that dereservations of forests would be suicidal.

Sir, Shri Sai Sai Terang mentioned about Diphu and said that better roads, better drainage facilities and better water supply facilities should be given there. While Diphu should have these amenities, I should like to say that in the two premier towns of Assam, namely, Gauhati and Shillong the state of affairs of these things there is also in very bad plight. But, Sir, Rs.6½ lakhs have been set apart for water supply for this place during the Second Five-Year Plan.

Shri Harinarayan Barua complained that town planning has been taken up in two towns, namely, Tinsukia and Gauhati and not in other towns. I submit that other towns will be taken up in good time.

Sir, Shri Nurul Islam said that this country is full of corruption, particularly, in policy. I need not repeat what I said a moment ago but it is the duty of the leaders like him to see and work hard to lessen this evil. We can approach the officers in different ways to save the country from this canker and we should ask our people to stop giving bribes as after all it is the people who take recourse to bribe.

Sir, Shri Ram Prasad Chaubey made mention about two tea gardens in Cachar making default in making weekly payment. Yes, Sir, in Santhalia T. E. and Chinkurie T. E. The Labour Officer could not hold conciliation proceedings as the local representatives of the tea estates were absent. Workers can seek relief in Court. But Government is taking action in this regard and has advised the local officers to take proper action so that regular payment is done.

He mentioned that cattle loan and housing loan are not available in spite of best efforts. I want to mention here that a couple of weeks ago Government had issued strict instructions to the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers in respect of cattle loan and it has been categorically specified that: (1) Within 15 days of receipt, these applications should be disposed of, because if such loan cannot be got in time during the season for cultivation, no purpose will be served. (2) Applicants should not be harassed and it should be seen that such applicant should not come to the town for the same purpose for more than two times. (3) Panchayats should be specifically instructed that the loans taken by them should be utilised properly and timely. If anybody take cattle loan for purchasing cattle and if it is used for any other purpose than for purchasing cattle, then he will be criminally prosecuted and legal action will be taken. Thus, there will be no difficulty in having speedy cattle loan in future.

He mentioned about Nehru High School. This matter will be looked into. There are reports to say that there are only 177 students in that school, although it is said that this school building is the best in the State. Thanks to the friends who undertook to build it with zeal but regarding non receipt of grant-in-aid for 4 months—this delay is for renewal of the grant. A report has been called for from the Assistant Inspector of Schools as to why grants have to be renewed from year to year which causes a lapse of 2 to 3 months in receipt. After receipt of the report action will be taken to avoid such delay.

He mentioned about delay in disposal of cases in law courts. There are two causes for this, (i) the officers can dispose of more cases than they do, and, (ii) due to Five-Year Plan and other new activities of the Government the Magistrates cannot devote their full attention to this aspect. But having said, I will repeat that the Magistrates can dispose of more cases than they do. Commissioners have been instructed to look into this and I think, things will improve.

Then, Sir, I come to one small point raised by Captain Williamson Sangma. I am sorry, he was not in the House the other day when I replied in my humble way to almost all the items that he raised in course of his instructive and illuminating debate. It is about defeated candidates. It is the policy of the Government not to nominate defeated candidates but circumstances so conspired that Government find it difficult in the matter of giving adequate representation to certain section or large section without having to nominate certain persons in certain committees or boards. For example, Shri Hagjer was the Deputy Minister, because he was considered efficiently suitable—if I may distinguish the defeated candidates in elections with a little cross in certain special cases—Shri Hagjer was no doubt defeated, but that was on a particular issue. It may be due to an issue on the question of a separate Hills State and generally this matter concerned India as a whole. Sir, I think I may not be contradicted if I say that Shri Hagjer is found to be a most suitable person to be nominated, particularly when the number of suitable persons is not very great. Therefore, Sir, I say it is not the Government policy to nominate only the defeated candidates, but in certain circumstances, we are to consider carefully whether the defeated candidate is a suitable person or not. If the defeated candidate is found suitable, Government will certainly give him the nomination. So, Sir, I say that it is not always justified to criticise Government's policy.....

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** On a point of information, Sir, may I suggest that in future such nomination will be given after taking the opinion of the District Councils ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :** That will be remembered in future, Sir.

***PU LALMAWIA [Aijal-East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Sir, is it not a fact that more defeated candidates are nominated to such committees in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District for the distribution of reliefs, etc. ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: That has come as a Question by the hon. Member from Shillong and therefore, that has already been disposed of.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Since my Friend has raised the point, I would like to say that it was illustrative, not exhaustive. Here also the same thing applies more or less with what I have already stated in the case of Shri Hagjer. It is not a fact that Government would gain great popularity or support that certain persons are nominated but due to the particular circumstances in certain areas, these defeated candidates are nominated. This matter, Sir, has focussed the attention of this House as well as Government and I think this observation of the hon. Members will be recollected at the time of future nomination.

Shri Hamdhon Mohon Haplongbar said that the amounts allotted for development work may be adequate but works are unsatisfactory. That may be so ; after all this is a question of opinion, but this matter will be looked into. Regarding water supply at Maibong Leprosy Centre, the revised scheme costing Rs.48,087 is under consideration. Again regarding Harangajao Dispensary. This Dispensary is yet to be sanctioned and the construction of the buildings will be taken up very shortly. Sir, the construction of the buildings is synonymous with the dispensary. Sir, I think we should not have so many dispensaries with bottles of medicine only and no doctor. Sir, during the last General Elections, when I was touring some interiors, people were saying what was the good of saying so many things during elections when for the last five years the doors of many dispensaries were closed. Sir, if we consider this subject, we shall find that the doors of the dispensaries were closed due to the fact that there is dearth of doctors. You cannot make a doctor as you like, it would take at least five or six years to make one a doctor. So why should we construct dispensaries which may not be synonymous ? Sir, we can make pots and potteries, but we cannot make doctors. Government will certainly give preference to dispensaries in the interiors and distant places where the people need medical help most and where we cannot render any medical help to them from the neighbouring dispensaries. Sir, if I have crossed over regarding this subject, I hope the hon. Members of this House will excuse me.

The hon. Member from Cachar, Mrs. Jyotsna Chanda, has mentioned about the Jowai-Badarpur Road. Government will try to complete the road as early as possible and

when completed is expected to remove the difficulty of the people. She has also mentioned about the standard of Middle English examination, Sir this is redundant, after only four years of development, it is too early to examine and judge the advantages, but this question is being taken into serious consideration by all educationists of India both in the Centre as well as in India. শিক্ষার আমূল পরিবর্তন লাগে। With a view to meeting all the needs of Lower Primary Schools and Colleges everywhere, to build up better men and women, to build up better India nobody can deny that it is not the wish of one and all of us, but what can be done is the matter which aggravated the minds of all the leaders in the country, therefore, Sir, I find it hard to reply to that. As regards Engineering Institute in Cachar I have said that it is not possible to open the Institute at present due to various reasons.

As regards harnessing of Barak river for power and industry, one amongst other things is that the soil is not suitable. The Flood Control Engineer and other officials stated that the survey work did not show any sign of prospect, the only other alternative is that Bunds should be constructed on both sides of the river.

Sir, the hon. Member from Nowgong, Shri Lila Kanta Bora, made interesting observation and important suggestion regarding re-organisation of administrative machinery for the success of the Plan as mentioned in the Budget and speech also. Sir, Government will take up this point although this reorganisation will take some time but we want that our plans should be successful. Another point, Sir, raised by Rev. Roy is regarding the earning of the Shillong-Gauhati-Pandu Route State Transport Organisation. Rev. Roy gave some figures but those figures were not correct. I am giving the correct figures as follows:—

Gross profit from goods	Rs.34,75,811
Gross profit from passengers	Rs.21,19,218
		Total	Rs.55,95,029
Gross expenditure	Rs.38,83,029

Therefore, the net profit is Rs.17,12,900. Sir, the other point mentioned by him that empty trucks be utilised on return trip, this question will be duly considered by Government to give back load to such empty trucks in order to reduce the cost of carrying coal from Shillong to Gauhati.

Again, Sir, the hon. Member has also mentioned about Mawsmat-Shella Road that the progress of construction is very slow. The reason for the slow progress it is known to the hon. Member himself as well as to the hon. Members of this House. Regarding construction of a road bridge between Gauhati and North Gauhati, the absence of a scheme, he said, was due to short-sighted policy of Government. Sir, I need not say anything on this because this will criticise the hon. Member himself. Another point that has been raised by him is regarding postponement of Khasi and Jaintia Hills District Council Election. It is not the fault of the Government to cause the great disappointment to the people as stated by Rev. Roy, but due to various difficulties in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the people themselves do not come forward to hold the election. There is no question of oppression or suppression on part of the Government. Sir, Rev. Roy again mentioned regarding adjustment of relationship between Hills and Plains people. He said that there should be fellow feeling, understanding and equal status. He says that the question of separation is due to the fact that the representatives of the Hills people are not taken into confidence. Sir, we deeply appreciate what he said even though we may not agree with all the points he raised in respect of the Hills people which were not all in keeping with the realities. But even so, what he has stated must provoke thought in us as to why my Friend harbours this kind of feeling. These feelings may be correct and may not be correct. The fact that he has uttered such things, it should be our duty to try to come to an understanding for which we sincerely hope that the co-operation from the leaders of the people of Hills will be forthcoming.

Shri Abdul Jalil has mentioned about Madrassa education. Sir, the aided Madrassa Institutions are given grants on the same basis as is applicable to other aided Institutions of the Government. So, if there is any discrimination, he will be pleased to point this out to the Minister-in-charge of Education. Certainly we shall make efforts to remove the grievance, if any, on this score. He further said that Rs.1,000 should be given to every cultivating family. I say—why one thousand rupees? It is not enough because the pre-war value of Rs.1,000 will come to Rs.250 to Rs.300 and with Rs.1,000 one cannot buy one pair of good Manipuri bullocks and seeds and nothing will be left for purchasing a shirt for his son. I think at least Rs.2,500 or Rs.3,000 should be given. After all whose money is this? All these crores of rupees I have provided in the Budget belong to this State. The hon. Members are the dispensers of these crores of rupees

(laughter). But the hon. Members will find that the money we have got is not enough to make our both ends meet. Therefore we shall have to practise austerity among ourselves, as the hon. Leader of the P. S. P. Group and Mr. Bhattacharyya of the Communist Party have been pleased to state. These are healthy suggestions. Perhaps we shall have to cut some of our amenities. Sir, I am so sorry, I am speaking too fast in order to finish my speech within the time limit and I hope I will get time till about 11 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER There are Starred and Unstarred Questions. Anyway, the hon. Minister will get 15 minutes more.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance)**: Sir, I shall try to finish by this time and for this I shall have to touch briefly the question raised by my Friends. Sir, my Friend, Shri Larsing Khyriem, has mentioned about the inadequacy of bone-meal for distribution among the cultivators in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Sir, Government will see to this.

Shri Mahidhar Pegu has put forward three substantial suggestions regarding (i) land settlement and land reforms, (ii) seed distribution, (iii) cottage industries. Sir, Government will try to give effect to his suggestions.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya was pleased to give three suggestions which are highly constructive. Government cannot but give due consideration to his suggestions without peril. But to give effect to his suggestions, it will take time. Then he has mentioned about the freight charges of Steamer Company. Sir, from 1938 to 1953 the charges have been increased by 324 per cent. Sir, we are helpless in this matter, so the Company has taken advantage of our helplessness, which is unfair and it is said in trade there are some occasions when they become unfair.

Shri Bhuban Pradhani has mentioned about agricultural loan. I have mentioned about it before. Shri Hiralal Patwari has spoken very useful things. It is about the milk supply. Sir, schemes have been drawn up within the limits of the Second Plan provision.

Then Shri Md. Idris has spoken about jute ; alleged use of short weight that the buyers buy about 48 seers in place of 40 seers in a maund. Sir, a Bill was passed in this connection and we are awaiting implementation of the provisions on the instruction from the Government of India. Government is alive to his suggestion and in future it will be seen if his suggestion can be acted upon. Then he has mentioned about establishment

of a Jute Co-operative Mill on co-operative basis. I hope Shri Md. Idris with all his energy will take the initiative and will be able to collect sufficient funds from the jute growers in order to have such a Jute Mill in course of say 2 years.

Shri Tarun Sen Dekha has made certain observations which are good in their own way. Government will try to implement them.

Shri Molia Tati has asked for introducing a scheme for giving pension to the unemployed tea garden labourers. Sir, in the present state of things here in Assam we are not in a position to give effect to his suggestion. But Government will apply their mind and see if this can be possible in the measurable distant future.

Shri Bishnulal Upadhyaya has mentioned that rinderpest disease was rampant among the cattle population in Assam. Sir, steps are being taken in this direction by making arrangements for giving rinderpest injection in large number of cattle.

Srimati Padma Kumari Gohain has spoken about the most important subjects like provision for Girls' Hostels, training of more compounders and nurses, provision for more maternity centres. Sir, these are all important things which are meant for the welfare of the people, particularly to our fair sex.

Sir, my Friend, Shri Lalmawia, has mentioned about non-supply of C. I. sheets to Lungleh Subdivision. Sir, I want to inform the House that in 1955 it was decided by Government to allot C. I. sheets on quota certificate basis to be issued to Messrs. F. H. Hazarika, the Sub-Agent of Messrs Buangthanga & Bros of Lungleh, the registered dealer of Lungleh as authorised by them. Ultimately the C. I. Sheets could not be procured by the above agent in Calcutta in spite of payment of the advance money by the above stockist. Then further allotment could not be made to the Subdivision as C. I. Sheets could not be procured by their Sub-Agent in Calcutta. The Subdivisional Officer was therefore directed to suggest alternative arrangement. The Subdivisional Officer suggested for an allotment of 40 tons of C. I. Sheets and a regular allotment of 20 tons. Then we communicated that regular quota for 1956-57 was tagged with Aijal quota and at the same time requested him to intimate the destination station and the route by which the C. I. Sheets are to be sent. (Sir, I am afraid, the hon. Member might be finding it difficult to follow me, as I am going too fast). Because this was very necessary before any action could be taken for direct allotment to Lungleh. Reply has since been received from the Subdivisional Officer that supply should be made from Aijal by road. As the Aijal quota is being despatched to Sealtickghat, the Lungleh

quota will also have to be booked to the same steamer-head wherefrom the dealer shall have to transport the same to Lungleh. The Subdivisional Officer, Lungleh has therefore, been directed to let us know if the dealer will agree to the same. If the dealer agrees to lift from Sealtickghat, action for direct allotment of quota to Lungleh from period I of 1957-58 onwards will be taken in due course, otherwise Lungleh quota will have to be tagged to Aijal.

Then he has mentioned about subsidising food. Sir, food has been subsidised in that district. The rate of subsidy vary from Rs.9 to Rs.24 per maund, in respect of various centres and different commodities, and the expenditure that has been made for subsidising food alone is this :

In 1956-57: For salt, Rs.1,25,000; for kerosene, Rs.25,000; for sugar, Rs.21,620; for wheat, Rs.4,870. In 1957-58 : For salt, Rs.1,34,000; for kerosene, Rs.31,200; for sugar Rs.22,000; for wheat, Rs.6,000; for rice, Rs.38,100. But I may inform the House that this amount of Rs.38,100 will not suffice and we are going to make further provision. For Aijal and Lungleh as far as this matter is concerned, Government are taking utmost care so that the commodities can reach there in time.

Shri Sahadat Ali Mandal Saheb spoke about Fakiragram embankment. The record of rights are not available and therefore it is taking a long time.

Shri Ranendra Mohan Das was pleased to point out about deficit budget and deficit financing. There is no time to try to do justice to the subject although I am not an economical Pandit. But financing is a Central subject which cannot be helped in the present context by our finance. The hon. Member knows that to a modest scale financing has been resorted to by the Centre since the big power is there which can spare money for our purpose through some indirect means. Deficit financing in India is mainly due to rising price of commodities and the dearth of consumption goods. We have not been able to put in the market as much consumption goods as we should have put to check upward trend of price.

He also said to raise the standard of living. I can hardly make any comment on this. That is everyone's effort to do it, but how soon to do it? That is the crux of the matter of everybody.

He talked of cottage industries. If we can spend all the money we have provided in the current year, it will be a great

thing. I can assure the hon. Members that cottage industries work or co-operation work will not suffer for lack of fund. But while we have got funds for it, we have not got perfect machinery where it is required.

Shri Biswadeb Sarma talked of the Expert Committee's recommendations for plantation labour. It is an important matter. Since our Minister, Shri Tripathy, who is a Minister in charge of Labour and who is also a labour leader, will deal with this matter.

Shri Thanglura mentioned of an important subject in respect of paucity of funds, that is being experienced by the District Council of his District. I will deal with this subject later on. Government will examine everything that he and other Members of his District have spoken.

Dr. Srihari Das said something about medical matters. Our Medical Minister will deal with them.

U Jor Manick spoke about communications and road transport in the hills, scholarships for tribals and agriculture, particularly for giving correct training in agriculture. Nobody would dispute that there is great necessity for giving correct training in agriculture. If we fail to give training to our agricultural inspectors, sub-inspectors and demonstrators regarding cultivation and also psychological training to enthuse our cultivators, our work will then greatly suffer. Government will try to implement his suggestions. But I may inform him that there are training classes where our agricultural demonstrators get as much training as circumstances permit.

Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua said that Pakistan-India boundary has not been clearly defined. I hope with the increase of time things will be set right. He also said about difficulties of small traders. It is our earnest endeavour to help in improving matters particularly the border trade by taking them up with the intransigent Pakistan leaders.

I may mention for his information that there is a proposal for construction of a road from Bismuri to Saralpara to connect the Bhutan border and this is being taken up.

Mahadevji mentioned of some important things that concern all of us, that is, 'নাছ, গাখীৰ আৰু দীক্ষা' that is, fish, milk and initiation. We will try to give importance to what are our vital necessities.

The Leader of the Praja Socialist Party spoke of invisible taxes. Really they are not taxes. Sir, it is our habit of cutting the 't's and dotting the 'i's. The Government is getting money from such sources for the benefit of the people. He was talking of land reform and ceiling fixation at 60 bighas. He thinks that the economic ceiling would be round about 20 bighas. Perhaps none would differ that 20 economic bighas would be sufficient or 30 bighas would do better. But it cannot be denied that owing to paucity of land, 20 bighas will be reasonable and 60 bighas will be ceiling. If need be, Government will be driven by circumstances to revise the whole thing. He also said that Government should enthuse our cultivators by land reforms. That is the object of the Government and its policy aims at that point. But the fact is that the paucity of land of our cultivators are standing in the way in giving full effect to it.

He further said that in industrialisation Government should take part. Sir, this suggestion is under close examination. But experience does not show that Government-sponsored industries are the best. Yet sooner or later for this we have to train a set of personnel and that is the urgent work which Government seeks to do. It will perhaps be taken up in no time. His advice to tighten our belt is welcome.

Shri Hem Chakravarty from Silchar spoke about Ayurvedic treatment. This matter has been taken up earnestly by my colleague, the Medical Minister and he is going to upgrade the Ayurvedic college. He is also going to have an Ayurvedic hospital with a minimum number of 200 beds for the interior with at least 8 beds. He is also perhaps going to open a research centre for Ayurvedic attached to the college with 2 or 3 harberium for plants.

That is being contemplated and I think money will not be wanting for this most important branch of our treatment for the benefit of the poor people.

Shri Prabhat Narayan Chaudhury said that Government had failed to convince the Centre and, therefore, we could not have the Brahmaputra bridge. Sir, I need not take the time of the House by replying to this. He mentioned one important thing, *viz.*, the delay in budgetary practice and procedure. This matter will receive consideration and I hope we will not be open to this accusation next year.

Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma and other hon. Members mentioned about some very important points, but I am sorry, Sir, I have no time to deal with them.

Sir, I thank the House for the very constructive criticisms offered and also patiently hearing to my rather lengthy submission for these two days. I thank you, Sir (*Applause*).

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely sorry, as I was lying ill yesterday, I did not know the change of time and therefore, could not turn out in time to-day. There are some very important questions and if you permit... ..

Mr. SPEAKER: We have not taken up the questions yet. The general discussion of the Budget is over. We now take up starred questions. Starred question No. 13.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given.)

Contagion Influenza in Assam

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) asked :

*13. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical and Public Health be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether the contagion influenza has spread over the State of Assam and if so, what are the figures of the victims in different Subdivisions and important towns ?
- (b) How many of these cases are of the new type popularly known as 'Flu' ?
- (c) What is the fatality, if any, from this epidemic so far ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that several Members of this Assembly including some Ministers have been also attacked by this contagion ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that this epidemic is unusual and may have relation to the contagion spreading over major parts of the world including India ?
- (f) Whether Government have any information to the effect that this contagion might be the result of the series of recent nuclear tests in the Pacific Ocean ?
- (g) What steps Government have taken so far and propose to take immediately to prevent the spread of this epidemic and treatment of the victims ?

- (h) Whether Government think it urgent to close down congested institution and congregations like schools, colleges, cinemas, sports, etc., in the State as a preventive measure ?
- (i) Whether it is a fact that this epidemic has spread into various Government offices all over the State hampering the normal working of the administration ?
- (j) If so, what alternative arrangements have been made in this respect ?
- (k) Whether Government have undertaken any research on this type of epidemic and if so, with what result, and if not, whether the Government will take immediate action in this regard ?
- (l) Whether it is a fact that there has been great pressure on all the hospitals in admitting victims of this epidemic and large number of patients are being refused for want of accommodation ?
- (m) If so, whether Government propose to take immediate steps to establish temporary camps for treatment of the patients ?
- (n) Whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of stock of medicines for treatment of this disease and if so, what steps have been taken in this matter ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

13. (a)—Yes, Influenza has broken out in some parts of the State and the attacks upto 15th June 1957 are furnished below :

Places	Attacks	Deaths
Dibrugarh (town)	8, 500	Nil
Doom Dooma „	10	„
Tezpur „	500	„
Dimapur „	109	„
Kohima „	50	„

Places	Attacks	Deaths
Karimganj	Town	33
Jorhat	„	Nil
Aijal	Nil	6,367
		„
		...
		„

(b)—None. Almost all the cases are reported to be mild cases of Influenza.

(c)—No fatality is reported so far.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Government have no information.

(g)—All District Medical Officers have been instructed to be alert and to take immediate action whenever a report of the outbreak reaches them. Propaganda to report immediately the occurrence of the disease to the nearest doctor for medical aid and other necessary advice has been made through visual and auditory methods. Drugs for the treatment of patients free of cost have been supplied to all the District Medical Officers. All District Officers have been directed to open special treatment centres in the towns where the incidence of the disease is widespread.

(h)—Yes. Action is being taken to issue immediate orders to this effect. Educational Institutions at Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Shillong have already been temporarily closed.

(i)—Yes.

(j)—No alternative arrangement is considered necessary as the staff who suffer from the disease remain absent for a short period only.

(k)—Yes. Some investigation has been undertaken at Assam Medical College, but the result is not yet available. Research on 'Flu' is a highly specialised subject. The Specialists on the line under World Health Organisation and the International Influenza Centre for the Americans are jointly carrying out the research for the benefit of the whole World.

(l)—Yes, there is pressure in out patient Departments where the incidence is widespread. Government have no information about refusal of admissions for the indoor treatment.

(m)—Will be done as soon as it is considered necessary.

(n)—No.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Have Government not been able to ascertain the figures from Gauhati ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) : We have not received any report from Gauhati so far. But I am calling for a report.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the report of the Doctor in charge of the Red Cross, Dr. Duara, that the number will be more than 50,000 at Gauhati ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : It may be ; any way, we shall get a report as early as possible.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : What is the figure for Shillong ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I have already said that the figure is 3,500 up-to-date. I may also state that here in Shillong 13 centres have been opened for treatment—7 in the existing dispensaries and 6 in the private practitioners' chambers. I am glad to state that our private practitioners are fully co-operating with us.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Were any instructions issued to cinema houses to close down ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I will have to ascertain it ; this is a new question.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : It is not a new question Sir, I mentioned "congested institutions" in my Question May I know whether instructions were issued to the proprietors of cinema houses to close down ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I will look into it.

Mr. SPEAKER : His Question is whether cinema house proprietors were instructed to close down their halls because they are congested areas.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) : That might have been done. I have no information now.

Dr. GHANASYAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Medical) : Most of the cinema houses have been closed. My hon. Friend mentioned about sports also, but we consider sports should not be stopped.....

Mr. SPEAKER : It is not necessary to give an explanation. What is wanted is reply to Questions. The Question was whether the cinema house proprietors had been instructed to close down their houses.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I will look into it and, if necessary, instructions will be issued to close them down.

Mr. SPEAKER : But I heard the hon. Deputy Minister saying that most of the cinema halls have been closed.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : In which places the cinema houses have been closed ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : As I said, Sir, I will look into the matter and take necessary action, if no action has yet been taken.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : It is not a fact that some specific medicines for influenza are not available in the market.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : So far I have got no report from the Director of Health Services that the stock of medicine is not sufficient at the moment.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) : May I know how many Members of this House have been affected by flu ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I cannot give the exact number, but it will not be less than 25 so far as I know.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : With regard to (h), do Government consider the Assembly Chamber to be a congested institution ? *(Laughter).*

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. The Hon'ble Minister need not reply to it.

We proceed to Unstarred Questions.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which the answers were laid on the Table.)

Dhamdhama Village Key Centre

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

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

(a) Whether the Medicine Section to Dhamdhama Village Key Centre will be opened ?

(b) Whether there is any proposal to that effect ?

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

37. (a) & (b)—It is proposed to supply some medicines to Key Village Centres, for carrying out first-aid treatment without detriment to the main work of artificial insemination.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Schedule Tribes)] : May I know whether the Government propose to open medicine section with the village key centres ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : The reply is there.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS : The answer is some medicines will be supplied to the Key Village Centres.

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. If the written reply is there, the hon. Member need not put the question afresh.

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Will the Minister-in-charge be pleased to state whether Government are aware of cattle deaths amounting to 700 cattle in 7 villages in Uttar-Baska and Dakshin-Baska Mauzas in Kamrup District, and, what action has been taken?

Mr. SPEAKER: This question does not arise out of Question No. 37.

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserve for Scheduled Tribes): Does the Minister-in-charge know the number of cattle deaths in Lakhimpur District?

Mr. SPEAKER: This Question also does not arise out of Question No. 37. I was referring to Question No. 37 and we will take up Question No. 38 when it comes.

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS: May I know what is the number of cattle deaths within the State?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary): Sir, I have called for the reports and I will pass on the same, on receipt, to the hon. Member.

Cattle Epidemic in the State

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked:

38. Will the Minister-in-charge of Veterinary be pleased to state Whether it is a fact that there has been cattle epidemic in the State during the month of April and May, 1957?

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

38.—Yes. In the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): May I know from the Minister-in-charge what was the epidemic?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: It is rinder pest, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Is it a fact, Sir, that for want of vaccine cattle died in large number?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, Government have no such information that due to want of vaccine the cattle died. There was a complaint for paucity of serum, but that had nothing to do with vaccine.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Are Government aware that the cattle death amounted to 25 or 30 even in cases of vaccination?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary): Even in normal cases 25 to 30 % cattle die after vaccination. If there is mass inoculation there is check against epidemic but that has got nothing to do with the cure of the disease

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):
Does the Minister-in-charge know the number of cattle deaths in Lakhimpur district ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary): Sir, I have already said that Government have called for the reports district-wise and when I will get them, I can supply them to the hon. Members.

Establishment of a Veterinary Hospital at Shapahi Khola in Jorhat Subdivision

Shrimati KAMAL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon):
asked :

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

- (a) Whether there has been a proposal to establish a Veterinary Hospital at Shapahi Khola in the Holongapar Mauza in the Subdivision of Jorhat ?
- (b) If so, when the works will be started ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary): replied

39. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shrimati KAMAL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon):
Will the Minister-in-charge be pleased to note that there is a great necessity of such dispensary in the area ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary): Government feel that there is a necessity to have a dispensary not only in this particular area but all over the State.

**Alleged issue of licence for liquor, wine, etc.,
to Government Officers**

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) asked :

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

- (a) Whether licences for use of liquor, wine, etc., have been issued to Government Officers ?
- (b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the names and designations of such officers ?

Shri CHATRA SINGH TERON (Minister, Excise) replied :

40. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): May I know from the Minister-in-charge whether licenses are issued to some clubs and bars ?

Shri CHATRA SINGH TERON: Sir, this question is related to the issue of licenses to the Government Officers. So it does not relate to the issue of licence of the use of liquor by clubs and bars.

**Dibrugarh Circle Chah Mazdoor Sangha Welfare
Centre**

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal) asked :

41. Will the Labour Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware that in the Dibrugarh Circle Chah Mazdoor Sangha Welfare Centres arrangements have been made to teach daily 310 tea garden labourers' children ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Labour Officer of Government after inspecting these centres lately has submitted report to the Government ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware of the night schools of the Dibrugarh Circle Chah Mazdoor Sangha Welfare Department ?
- (d) If not, whether Government propose to enquire of it and arrange to give some financial help in those schools ?

42. (a) Whether he received any representation from the Dibrugarh Circle Chah Mazdoor Sangha Labour Welfare Department some time in January, 1957 for some financial help to the Department ?
- (b) If so, what action Government have taken on it ?
- (c) Whether he had received another representation in 1956 from the same Sangha for opening 8 Labour Welfare Centres and 5 Labour Clubs and night schools in the Dibrugarh Subdivision ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that the work of the Dibrugarh Circle Chah Mazdoor Sangha Welfare Department was highly praised by the All India Congress President,—Shri U. N. Dhebar, the delegates of Yugoslavia and Russia, former Minister of Labour—Shri O.K. Das, Present Labour Ambassador, Shri B. C. Bhagabati, M. P., etc. ?
- (e) Whether it is also a fact that the Labour Officer of Dibrugarh sent a report some time in January, or February 1957 to the Government after his inspection of the Welfare Department ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

41. (a)—Yes. Exact number of labourers' children now being taught under the arrangements made by the Dibrugarh Circle Chah Mazdoor Sangha Welfare Centres is, however, not known.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—It is obligatory under the Plantations Labour Act to provide for education.

It may be difficult for Government to give financial aid but the suggestion will be examined. It is also expected of trade unions to undertake such welfare work.

42. (a)—A representation was submitted to the Chief Minister, but financial aid was not directly sought for.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Government have no direct information except copies of remarks sent along with the application.

(e)—Yes.

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal): মহোদয়, Plantation Labour Act মতে চাহ মজদুর সকলে যিবিলাক সা-সুবিধা পোৱা কথা, যেনে গা ধোৱা পাইখানা আদিৰ সুবিধা, সেইবিলাক বৰ্তমান তেওঁলোকে পাইছে নে?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): Plantation Labour Act মতে যিবিলাক সুবিধা মজদুৰে পোৱাৰ কথা সেই সকলো কাম এটা programme মতে হোৱাৰ কথা আছে আৰু সেই অনুসাবে কিছুমান কাম আগত, কিছুমান কাম মাজত আৰু কিছুমান কাম শেষত হ'ব লাগে। বৰ্তমান ক্ষেত্ৰত আগতে হ'বলগা কামবোৰো কিছুমান বাকী আছে শেষত হ'ব লগীয়া কামবোৰো কথাই নাই। সকলো কাম একেলগে হোৱাৰ কথা নাই। যি হওক সেই বিষয়ে এতিয়া এখন Agreement হৈ গৈছে। সেই অনুসাবে কাম হ'ব।

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA: কস্তৰ্ব। গান্ধী Memorial Trust এ বকুৰাচালি আৰু টয়কত যে বহুতো টকা নষ্ট কৰিছে সেই কথা সচানে?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: সেই কথা মোৰ জনা নাই।

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA: সেই বিলাকৰ অতি সোনকালে খবৰ লৈ সচা বুলি চৰকাৰে জনাব পিচতো তেওঁলোককেই পুনৰ খুলিব খোজা ৮১টা উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্ৰৰ কাম কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হ'বনে?

Unemployment in Tea Gardens

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal) asked :

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

(a) Whether he is aware that for want of employment in the Tea Gardens most of labourers born in the tea gardens are now unemployed?

(b) If so, whether Government will please enquire and state how many such labourers are in the Dibrugarh Subdivision and what action Government have taken for their employment?

44. (a) Whether it is a fact that when a tea garden labourer marries a girl from another tea garden, the girl does not get any employment in the garden of her husband?

(b) If so, whether Government have taken any action for employment of such newly wedded girl in the tea garden of her husband?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied:

43. (a)—Government have no information.

(b)—Does not arise.

44. (a) and (b)—Government have no information but obviously this will depend more on availability of employment in the new garden concerned.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): Is there any proposal in the hands of the Government to ascertain the information in reply to Question No. 43(a) which runs "Government have no information."

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): I will inform the House that since we come to know from certain representatives that there was a growing unemployment in the tea gardens, we have taken steps to have a sample survey of the tea gardens so that we may be in a better position to understand where there is unemployment and to what extent.

Participation by Labourers in last General Election

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal) asked:

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Government issued direction prior to last general election to all the tea garden authorities to give all facilities specially to give holiday or half holiday to the labourers so that they might cast their votes in the last General Election?

(b) Whether Government are aware that during the last General Election most of the authorities of the tea gardens in the Dibrugarh Subdivision did not give such facilities to the labourers for casting their votes?

(c) If so, whether Government have taken any action on it?

(d) If not, why not?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied:

45. (a)—A direction was given to all interests concerned in the light of the advice received from the Government of India. A copy of the press note issued by the State Government is laid on the table.

Employer's organisations were advised to give reasonable facilities to their workers to cast their votes. Where in any establishment a substantial proportion of workers applied in good time for a substituted holiday on the polling day, i. e., a holiday in lieu of another to which the workers were entitled, the managements were advised to agree to it.

PRESS NOTE**Voting facilities to workers****Government of Assam's advice to employers**

The Government of Assam attach great importance to the General Elections under the Constitution and would like to see that all workers get a reasonable opportunity to exercise their right to vote. They have, therefore, requested employers' organisations to advise their constituent members to give reasonable facilities to their workers to cast their votes without their being made to suffer any loss of wages.

It is also suggested that if in any particular establishment a substantial proportion of workers apply in good time for a substituted holiday on the polling day, that is, a holiday in lieu of another to which workers are entitled, the management should agree to such an arrangement.

Memo. No.GLR.459/56, dated Shillong, the 13th February 1957.

Copy forwarded to :—

1. Director of Information and Publicity, Assam, Shillong, for favour of publication in the next issue of Assam Gazette and wide publicity.
2. Labour Commissioner, Assam, for favour of communication to different Employers' and Employees' Associations.
3. Special Officer, Assam Government Press, Shillong, for information.
4. Adviser, Indian Tea Association, "Cedar Lodge", Shillong.
5. Secretary, Surma Valley Indian Tea Planters' Association, E-3, Clive Buildings, Calcutta.
6. Secretary, Assam Tea Planters' Association, Jorhat.
7. Manager, Assam Match Company, Dhubri.
8. General Manager, Assam Railways and Trading Company, Margherita.
9. General Manager, Assam Oil Company, Digboi.
10. Secretary, Assam Oil Mills Association, Gauhati.
11. Secretary, Bharatiya Cha Parishad, 9, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta-13.
12. Agent, R. S. N. and I. G. N., Gauhati.

13. Secretary, Indian National Trade Union Congress, Dibrugarh.

14. Secretary, Indian Tea Planters' Association, Jalpaiguri.

By order, etc.,

L. BAROOAH,
Assistant Secretary to the Government of
Assam, Labour Department.

(b)—Government have no information.

(c) & (d)—In view of the position explained at (a), this does not arise.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Sir, is it not an anomaly of the second para of the Government Press Note issued by Government when in many gardens there were difficulties of Labourers in getting holiday or leave to cast their votes? Sir, I think the second para is anomalous.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister): Sir, it is a historical fact but whatever is suggested by the hon. Member will be taken into consideration in future.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: Sir, so many telegrams have been sent from many circles and Zilla Sanghas to Shillong regarding these difficulties, but Government have stated that they had no information of any difficulties.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

কানে দিয়েছে তুলো,

পিঠে বেঁকেছে কলো।

Selling out of some Land by Horoochari Tea Estate

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked:

46. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware that the owner of Haroochari Tea Estate, Jorhat, has sold out several pieces of lands which were occupied and cultivated by some families for a long time?

(b) If so, whether Government propose to arrange the land to be enjoyed by the former occupants who have cleared the jungle and made the land suitable for cultivation?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

46. (a)—Yes. Government have received report about the sale of two plots with a total area of 72 Bs. OK. 19Ls. But enquiries reveal that none of this land except 5Bs. was in the possession of labourers on the date of sale.

(b)—This is a civil dispute between private parties and Government cannot interfere.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : Sir, I brought to the notice of the Government that some plots of land have been sold at Hoorichari Tea Estate within Jorhat Subdivision. Will the Government be pleased to allow those lands to be used by the cultivators ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Sir, the reply is there that this is a civil dispute between private parties and Government cannot interfere.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : Whether there is any case pending in the Court ? If some instances not pending in the Court are brought to the notice of the Government, will the Government return to the original cultivation ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : There need not be any case pending in the Court. As I have already stated, the dispute is between private parties.

Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : क्या, चाय बगान के मालिक Government की दी हुई जमीन बेच सकते हैं ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Yes, they can.

Sonari-Brahmaputra Ferry

Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY [Moran (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

47. Will the Minister, in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Sonari-Brahmaputra ferry at Dibrugarh is running very irregularly ?

(b) If so, what steps the Government have taken to improve the ferry service ?

(c) If the reply to (b) above is in the negative, why no steps for its improvement were taken ?

(d) Whether Government are aware that there are recurring boat disasters causing loss of life in the river Brahmaputra during the monsoon since the great Earth-quake of 1950, in the Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

(e) If so, what steps have so far been taken by the Government to stop these calamities?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Public Works Department) replied :

47. (a)—In high and turbulent current during flood season, the ferry cannot run regularly.

(b)—To improve the ferry service a proposal to run it with flat bottomed single boat fitted with engine is under consideration.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d) There were two boat disasters causing damage and sinkage of two marboats one in July, 1955 and the other in April, 1956. There was no loss of life in any one.

(e)—Reply as per (b) above.

Result of election to the Gauhati University Court

Mr. SPEAKER : The question hour is over.

I have great pleasure to inform the House that both the Government and Opposition Parties by mutual settlement have made election to the Gauhati University Court uncontested by limiting the number of candidates according to the number of Members to be elected. The following hon. Members are therefore declared elected :—

1. Mrs. Jyotsna Chanda.
2. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika.
3. Shri Lalit Kumar Daley.
4. Shri Prokritish Chandra Barua, and
5. Shri Tarunsen Deka.

Statement made by the Speaker regarding time-limit in discussing Cut Motions on Demands for Grants

Mr. SPEAKER : We now proceed with the Demands for Grants. I understand the usual practice is to allot 50 per cent time to the Opposition and 50 per cent to the Treasury Bench. I now propose to continue the same practice.

Now under Grant No.11, the Opposition will get only 50 minutes' time. Therefore each one of them who want to move the Cut Motions will get 5 minutes' time.

So far as Grant Nos.20, 21, and 50 are concerned the Opposition will get exactly 30 minutes. Now there are eight members, so each one of them will get only 4 minutes' time. I think the hon. Members will consider the position. I think it would be better if they put their heads together and see whether they could reduce the number of Members who will move the Cut Motions standing respectively in their names.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Sir, what I propose to do is that in Grant No.11, under General Administration there are only two Cut Motions standing in the names of Shri Ranendra Mohan Das and Shri Larsingh Khyriem respectively for raising a general discussion. If the other members are allowed to discuss the whole grant then we will move only one Cut Motion either of Shri Ranendra Mohan Das or of Shri Larsingh Khyriem and other Members will speak on the Motion.

So far as Grant Nos.20, 21 and 50 are concerned, we should better wait and see how the arrangement will succeed on Grant No.11.

Demands for Grants

Grant No. II

25.—General Administration

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,30,19,500 (Rupees one crore, thirty lakhs, nineteen thousand and five hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1958 for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is:

"That a sum of Rs.1,30,19,500 (Rupees one crore, thirty lakhs, nineteen thousand and five hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1958 for the administration of the head 25.—General Administration."

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of

Rs.1,30,19,500 under Grant No.11, Major head—25.—General Administration, at page 58 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,30,19,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my intention to move this Cut Motion is to raise a general discussion on the work of the Administration. Sir, we have been discussing the Budget during the last three days and we have suggested that due to our financial difficulties the top heavy administration should be curtailed, wasteful expenditure wherever found should be avoided. But the Government has given no indication so far as these things are concerned. The next thing we talked in this House is that we should raise the efficiency of the administration and corruption must be uprooted. In this connection, so long we did not bring in any names of officers of the Government. Rather we only criticise the Government. The Government has failed to infuse that sincerity of purpose in the ranks of high and low-paid officers. The high ranking officers have been doing their work also without any sincerity for the development of the State in the various developmental projects. They have been attending to their routine work from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. in office. But nowhere we shall find any sincerity and service mentality excepting a very few.

Sir, during these 10 years the Government have failed to infuse that feeling among the officers in general.

In this connection I want to say something about my constituency. I come from Karimganj constituency. Karimganj is a very important subdivision. During these years after Partition all sorts of troubles were going on there. There were border troubles, there were smugglings of rice and paddy and other things which were going on unabated. Some Government officers whether of high or low ranks in Police Department and other Departments also are involved in smuggling business. In the last general elections in Karimganj the people have given their verdict against the Government—one Minister and the Congress President of District Congress Committee were defeated. The Congress Party has utterly failed in Karimganj and the Subdivision has practically been now called the 'Kerala of Assam'. Two Congress candidates returned on the strength of their community only and four for Congress organisation. So, Sir, the public opinion is against the Government of the day in the subdivision of Karimganj.

It is really painful to raise complaint against a particular man. I would like to speak about one officer, although I never like to bring any charges against such a small fry. But, Sir, the whole public opinion is against him, I am compelled to level certain specific charges as desired by the people of Karimganj. There had been a public meeting concerning the activities of this officer. He is an Assamese officer. We have no grudge against any Assamese officer. There are many officers of various communities also, say, Assamese, Bengali, Bihari and officers from U. P. but we are quite happy with them. The name of the particular officer is Shri Soneswar Kalita. He is said to be the illegitimate child of Assam Government.

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. The hon. Member while referring to an officer of the Government should not make remarks as to injure his personal dignity but only his activities as an officer may be called in question.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) : It is also not parliamentary, Sir, to use the word 'illegitimate child'.

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes, the hon. Member will please withdraw it.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North) : If the Hon'ble Speaker objects, I withdraw it. Now, Sir, I had to use this appropriate term because he was not appointed in a regular way. As you know, Sir, this gentleman was a rival of the Chief Minister, Shri Bishnuram Medhi, in the last election of 1951 and because he withdrew his candidature, he was given this post under the Government. That is why I said that he is not the proper child of the Government. He did not come through a proper channel.

Now, Sir, on 31st July 1956, a Resolution was passed by the Muktears' Bar Association in Karimganj Subdivision against this officer, copies were sent to the Government since last one year but unfortunately no step was taken. As you know, Sir, our Subdivisional Officer was Shri R. K. Srivastava who is an I.A.S. Officer. Earlier Government preferred to place I. A. S. officers in this troubled Subdivision, but Shri Srivastava was transferred to the Secretariat, and for the last few months Government did not care to send any I. A. S. officer there but allowed the Senior E. A. C., Shri Soneswar Kolita to officiate as Subdivisional Officer. Sir, let me read out some extracts

from the Resolutions passed in the Muktears' a Bar Association meeting I mentioned earlier which give a correct public opinion concerning this officer :—

“Whereas Shri Soneswar Kalita, Magistrate, Karimganj, is unfair and indiscreet in recording evidence and also in restricting whimsically the examination, cross-examination and arguments resulting in serious miscarriage of justice as instance in G/R case No.660 of 1953, in Misc case No.43 (M) of 1956 ; and

Whereas the said Magistrate at his whims sometimes records incorrect, erroneous and misleading order in the order sheet of respective cases as for instance in the case No.2155 of 1956 in which case he wrongly recorded that the petition under section 526 after the disposal of the case ; and

Whereas the said Magistrate is incapable of maintaining judicial equilibrium rather appears to be perverse and vindictive in exercising discretion, vested in him by law in the matter of granting, accepting and forfeiting bail and bail-bonds and even in frustrating the very object of bail passed by the Sessions Judge by abusing his power and by ingeneous means and in allowing adjournments and adjournment costs as for the great harassment of the parties as for instance in the G/R Case No.522 of 1953, Case No.16 of 1954, in the G/R Case No.55 of 1955, in the G/R Case No.174 of 1953 ; and

Whereas the said Magistrate is in the habit of making unnecessary adjournments, only for the delivery of Judgments in the cases to the great harassment, inconvenience and in justice to the parties as for instance in the G/R Case No.20 of 1955 there were about 14 adjournments. In case No. G/R 599 of 1954, 6 adjournments, in Case No.1408 (I) of 1955 about 9 adjournments.”

Sir, regarding the case of 19 adjournments, I would like to say that the person involved was the cousin of the Congress President of Karimganj. His was a case of defalcation of money. After 19 adjournments covering more than six months, he delivered judgment and the person was accused. I do not want to go into the merit of the case or of his judgment. I leave the matter for the judgment of the House. Let me continue the resolution. “Whereas the unwholesome, insulting and objectionable dealings of the Magistrate with practising lawyers not to speak of the parties and to the clerks coupled with his

arbitrary refusal to hear the lawyers and to allow them inspection of the records and his ill temper have rendered it impossible for the lawyers to appear and conduct cases before him with their prestige and position and the administration of justice is in jeopardy ;

This meeting of the Karimganj Muktears' Bar Association urges upon the Government to take immediate step in the matter to relieve the litigant public and the lawyers of the gross injustice and handicaps they are labouring under and also demands a public enquiry into the conduct of the Magistrate to restore confidence of the public in the administration of Justice".

Sir, if you make an enquiry you will see that many other officers, both Assamese and Bengali, are not happy with this man because he finds fault with any and everybody and even with menials—some were fined, some were dismissed or transferred. All these things he does at his whims. Sir, to prove that this man is probably suffering from some derailment of brain I will cite an instance. In a certain case involving Passport offence, *i. e.*, some one entered India without a Passport, this party consists of a man, his wife and a child below one year. These people were taken to the Court, tried and judgment delivered. Now his judgment is like this: he sentenced the husband to jail for 15 days, the wife for 5 days and the child for 1 day (*loud laughter*).

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): On a point of order, Sir, can the hon. Member discuss on the floor of the House the judgment which was passed in a court of law?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the hon. Member must bear in mind that any judgment passed in a court of law cannot be called in question in this House.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North): I am not questioning the judgment. I cite it because it is a peculiar case, Sir ; that is why I am telling about it. Now consider what would happen to Jailor, Sir, when he will have to release that child of below one year after one day which is still a breast-fed child (*more laughter, loud and prolonged*) ? To whom the Jailor will hand over that child? My suggestion to the Hon'ble Minister is that this man should be sent to Tezpur for examination.

Now, Sir, there are other very serious charges. We know during the British days when an officer has got too much acquaintance with the locality, he is transferred elsewhere in the interest of public services. But this man has been in Karimganj for three or four years and he is taking part in all sorts of local politics. During the last Panchayat election you will see, Sir, that where the Congress candidate was defeated, he ordered re-election on some pretext and in all other cases where the opposition party were successful he cancelled those elections.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): On a point of order Sir, here again the hon. Member discusses the action taken by the Magistrate.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North): This is done not in his capacity as a Magistrate but as Sub-divisional Officer, so.....

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a matter which will have to be gone into later.

I noticed that there is a rule in the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha regarding this but this will have to be looked into. In the meantime, the hon. Members will refrain from making reference to a question which is lying for disposal in a Court of law.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North): All right, Sir. Now, I shall show his activities in discharge of his executive functions. I give instance of a Panchayat election in Srigouri. Election was held on 28th April 1957 and a member of the Opposition party was elected president but after one month from this day, 28th April 1957, the Sub-Divisional Officer gave an order nullifying the election on the ground that the notice which was issued for election was not valid. The fact is that in that meeting all the members were present and in a lawful manner they elected the President but it is surprising that after one month he cancelled this election.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Was it done by him on a petition of appeal?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North): I do not know about that but what we have heard is that he after discussion with the Congress leaders passed this order. He could have passed this order after a week or so but why did he take one month's time?

Besides this, on this matter there is a serious charge against him. Election for the President of this Panchayat was fixed again for the 5th June, 1957. ***

Mr. SPEAKER: As I have said already that I have little difficulty as there is no specific rule in our Rules but it is common sense and practice that a matter which is in the Court of Law in any part of India this should not come under a Cut Motion. This matter is being dealt with by the High Court, so we cannot discuss this. So pending disposal of this point at a later stage, hon. Members will be well-advised not to say anything in matters lying with a Court of law.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: (Karimganj-North): Then, another thing I want to bring to the notice of this House is that several transferred petitions under section 520 (a) were moved against this officer. I think, Sir, when there is resentment against this officer by a large number of people in Karimganj he should be transferred from this place atonce. I think, Mr. Moinul Haque Chaudhury, now a Minister, while he was a pleader knew certain things about this person.

Maulavi MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): I think my Friend should not have dragged me in this controversy as I am a Minister now. As a lawyer I might have had some instructions for some people.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): I said Mr. Chaudhury not as a Minister but as a lawyer. But what I want to emphasise here is that there may be hundreds of other Kalitas, but we are fed up with this Kalita. Government should take up all the charges against him and hold an enquiry but at any cost we should be relieved of him and if Government likes he may be made the Deputy Commissioner of Shillong, but for Heaven's sake save us from this corrupt and insane person (*Laughter*). With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.1,30,19,500 under Grant No.11, Major head—25—General Administration, at page 58 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1 i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1.30,19,500, do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BORBARUA (Amguri): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়—মই মোব কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ সপক্ষে আজিৰ এই মদনত মাননীয় সদস্যসকলৰ বিবেচনাত কিছু কথা কম।

প্ৰথমতেই মই কও আজি আমাৰ যিটো শাসন যন্ত্ৰ সেইটো একেবাৰেই সময়ৰ অনুপযোগী আৰু ই 'টপ হেভী'।

(Voice—কি ?)

'টপ হেভী'—উপৰি গধুৰ।

অৰ্থাৎ টকা খৰচ কৰোতে—জনসাধাৰণে যি দৰে পাব লাগে সেই দৰে নাপায় আৰু বিভাগীয় যিবিলাক কৰ্মচাৰী আছে তেওঁবিলাকৰ 'মেইনটেনেন্স'তে সবহ ভাগ উৰি যায়। এই কথা মই বেচিকৈ বহুলাই নকলোও হব—কাৰণ, এই মদনৰ মদ্য সৰুৰ এই কথা একেবাৰেই অবিদিত নহয়। ধৰক কৃষি বিভাগ (Agriculture Department) অথবা যেই কোনো বিভাগ। কৃষি বিভাগৰ কাম হৈছে কৃষিৰ উন্নতিৰ হকে কাম কৰা। কৃষিৰ উন্নতিৰ বদলি টকাৰ অধিকাংশ উৰিযায়—'ডিপাৰ্টমেন্ট'ত, বাইজৰ ওচৰ নাপায় গৈয়ে।

দ্বিতীয়তে কও আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকল আৰু জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত—ইংৰাজৰ আমোলাতান্ত্ৰিকতাৰ যুগৰে পৰা চলি অহা—ব্যৱধানটো এতিয়াও পুৰা মদনত চলি আছে। এই চৰকাৰী চাকৰীয়া আৰু জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত বখা ব্যৱধানটোকেই ইংৰাজীত 'বুৰক্ৰেচী' কয়—আৰু এই 'বুৰক্ৰেচী' আমাৰ আজিৰ চৰকাৰেও অনুসৰণ কৰি আছে। এইটো বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা। এই কাৰণেই আজিও চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক মজী সকলক আমাৰ এই জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত 'ছজুৰ' 'হাকিম' বুলি কোৱাৰ পথা চলি আছে আৰু ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই বহুত লোকে চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰীৰ পৰা ব্যক্তিগত উদ্দেশ্য সাধন কৰে। তাৰোপৰি চৰকাৰী চাকৰীয়া সকলৰ, এটা মনোভাব বৈ গৈছে যে তেওঁলোক যেতিয়া চৰকাৰৰ চাকৰী কৰে তেওঁলোকে যিয়েই নকৰক, কাম কৰকেই বা নকৰক নাহে নাহে দৰ্শনা পাবই। সেই কাৰণে জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত সোমাই আন্তৰিকতাৰে সৈতে কাম নকৰে আৰু আগতে কৈ অহা 'বুৰক্ৰেচী' ভাৱাপন্নৰে জনসাধাৰণক উপেক্ষা কৰে। এই 'বুৰক্ৰেচী'.....

(Voice 'বুৰক্ৰেচী' মানে কি ?)

অসমত বসবাস কৰি, অসমত থাকি হাড়ে মৰ্গজৰে অসমীয়া হৈও, যেতিয়া, ইংৰাজীতে কথা কব পাৰে তেওঁলোক 'বুৰক্ৰেচী'ৰ অসমীয়া বুজি নোপোৱাটো দুখৰ কথা। যেই নহওক 'বুৰক্ৰেচী' মানে 'আমোলা তন্ত্ৰ'।

এই আমোলাতান্ত্ৰিকতাৰ কাৰণেই আজি আমাৰ বাইজে চৰকাৰৰ পৰা পদে পদে আহুকাল ভোগ কৰি আহিছে আৰু বাইজৰ কল্যাণ মূলক কামত সাকল্য মণ্ডিত হোৱাৰ দূৰৰ কথা বাইজক গণ্য কৰিবই নোখোজে।

তৃতীয় কথা—‘বেডটেপিজিম’। ইয়াৰ প্ৰভাৱত বাইজৰ যেই কোনো বিষয়ক আবেদন নিবেদন যিমানৈ চৰকাৰলৈ নকৰক সকলো নোহোৱা হৈ যায়। অ’ৰ পৰা ত’ত, ত’ৰ পৰা ত’লৈ, এইদৰে গৈ গৈ মাজতে অন্তৰ্ধান। অফিচত হোৱা এনে বিলাক মেৰপাক আৰু বেমেজালীৰ বাবে চৰকাৰেই দায়ী। মই Secretariat Office ৰ কথা নকওয়েই, আমাৰ শিবসাগৰৰ নিচিনা যিবিলাক District Office আছে সেই বিলাকতো মানুহে দৰখাস্ত দিয়াৰ পাচত সেই দৰখাস্ত action লোৱাৰ আগতে হেৰাই যায়।

মোৰ ৪র্থ কথা হল, corruption, চৰকাৰী বিভাগবোৰত corruption আছে বুলি জানিয়েই চৰকাৰে anti-corruption বিভাগ ৰাখিছে, কিন্তু anti-corruption বিভাগেই যদি corruption কৰে তেনেহলে তেওঁলোকক কোনে চাব ?

চৰকাৰৰ বিভাগ নোৱৰ inefficiency ৰ কথা সকলোৱে জানে। Electoral list তৈয়াৰ কৰোতে তাত inefficiency স্বৰূপে কও যে আমি এনেকুৱা ও দেখিছো যে বাপেকৰ বয়স ৪০ বছৰ আৰু পুতেকৰ বয়স ৫০ বছৰ। এইটো এটা সাধাৰণ নমুনাহে। খুচৰি চালে এনেকুৱা inefficiency ৰ বহুতো নিদৰ্শন চৰকাৰে বিচাৰি পাব।

চৰকাৰে বহুত টকা খৰচ কৰি অলপতে Pay Committee পাতিলে, কিন্তু তাত যিটো Pay Scale নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত কৰিলে তাৰো কোনো basic, বা clear cut Principle নাই। ভাৰতৰ সংবিধান মতে equal pay for equal work হ’ব লাগে। মই কও যে Sericulture Inspector আৰু graduate teacher ৰ pay scale কেনেকৈ একে হয় ? যি শিক্ষকে লৰাৰ ভবিষ্যৎ, জাতিৰ ভবিষ্যৎ গঠন কৰিব তেওঁৰ দায়িত্ব আৰু Sericulture Inspector ৰ দায়িত্ব একে হ’লনে ? এনেবোৰ কাৰণতে অফিচৰ সকলৰ ভিতৰত মনোমালিন্য দেখা গৈছে।

তাৰ পিচত আমাৰ দুখীয়া ৰাজ্য খনত মিনিষ্টাৰ সকলৰ কাৰণে যি খৰচ ৰাজ্যিক পুজিৰ পৰা খৰচ কৰিব লগীয়া হয়, সেইটো বাস্তৱতে আমাৰ নিচিনা দুখীয়া ৰাজ্যত অতি অশোভনীয় আৰু লাজৰ কথা। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে কব পাৰো যে Centreত Minister সকলে স্বেচ্ছায় ১০% এৰি দিছে। এই বিষয়টো চাই আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী সকলেও জানো কেন্দ্ৰীয় মন্ত্ৰী সকলৰ উদাহৰণ লোৱা উচিত নহয় ? তাৰ পিচত আমি দেখিছো আমাৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী মফচললৈ গলে এদল চিপাহী, চণ্টৰী লৈ যায়—ইয়াত জানো কম খৰচ হয়। তদুপৰি গনতান্ত্ৰিক ৰাজ্যত ইমান ভয় কিহৰ ? আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰীসকলে ২৪ হাজাৰ টকা খৰচ কৰি ধুনীয়া ধুনীয়া গাড়ী ব্যৱহাৰ কৰে। আমাৰ নিচিনা দুখীয়া ৰাজ্যৰ মন্ত্ৰীসকলে অকল গাড়ীতেই ইমান খৰচ কৰা উচিত নে ? এইবোৰ অকল মোৰ কথা নহয়। ৰাজ্যৰ সকলো জনসাধাৰণে এইটো আসোৱাহব চকুৰে চাইছে। ইংলণ্ডৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীয়ো গনতান্ত্ৰিক ৰাজ্যৰেই প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী। তেখেত অকলে ঘূৰি কুৰে আৰু সাধাৰণ গাড়ীয়েই ব্যৱহাৰ কৰে। গতিকে মই পৰামৰ্শ স্বৰূপে কও যে যাতে মন্ত্ৰী সকলে এইবোৰ অদৰকাৰী খৰচ বাদ দিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰে।

তাৰ পিচত আমাৰ Chief Ministerৰ বেলেগ চেক্রেটৰীয়েট কিয় ? এই চেক্রেটৰীয়েট আছেই এইটোও বগা হাতী পোহাৰ দৰে খবচৰ বাস্তৱ । ইয়াৰ চেক্রেটৰীয়েটৰ staffৰ 20 per cent reduce কৰা উচিত আৰু আন productive বিষয়ত নিয়োগ কৰা উচিত । এই চেক্রেটৰীয়েটৰ উপৰিও মধ্যমস্তৰীৰ চেক্রেটৰীয়েটত ২৩ জন কৰ্মচাৰী বা লোক লগতে থাকে । এই বিলাকৰ সংখ্যা নিশ্চয় বেচি হৈছে—কমোৱা দৰ্কাৰ । আমাৰ দেশত দুৰ্ভিক্ষই দেখা দিছে । উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কও যে শিবগাঁৱ মহকুমাৰ খালৈ ঘোঁষোৱা মৌজাৰ বৰ চহকী গাঁৱত ৮৬ ঘৰ মানুহৰ ভিতৰত ৪৭ ঘৰে খাবলৈ নাই । সেইদৰে মিকিৰ পাহাৰৰ নমাটি মৌজাৰ চাইজেং নং ১ গাঁৱত ১৭ ঘৰ মানুহৰ ভিতৰত ১৫ ঘৰতে খাবলৈ নাই, সেই একে মৌজাৰে চাইজেং নং ২ গাঁৱত ২২ ঘৰ মানুহৰ ভিতৰত ২২ ঘৰে খাবলৈ নাই । তাতে ৪ নং চাইজেং গাঁৱৰ ৬ ঘৰ মানুহৰ ভিতৰত ৬ ঘৰতে খাবলৈ নাই । ৫ নং চাইজেং গাঁৱত ৮ ঘৰ মানুহ ; সেই ৮ ঘৰতে খাবলৈ নাই ৬নং চাইজেং গাঁৱত ১১ ঘৰৰ ভিতৰত ১১ ঘৰে নাই । বালি গাঁৱত ৪৮ ঘৰ মানুহ তাৰ ভিতৰত ৪৩ ঘৰৰ খাবলৈ নাই । চেলাবৰ বিৰ্জাভ গাঁৱত ১০ ঘৰ মানুহ, ১০ ঘৰতে খাবলৈ নাই ।

গতিকে এনে এখন দুখীয়া ঠাইত এক নয়া পইচা হলেও তাক বাহি কৰিব লাগিব । কাৰণ দুখীয়া ৰাজ্যিক পুৰ্জি শক্ত কৰিবলৈ যেনে কোনো প্ৰকাৰে চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগে ।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend Shri Borbarua from Amguri has criticised the Government of top-heaviness. I think he has been too modest in saying so. He would have been perfectly justified if he would have said that the Government at present is possessed of swell-headedness, and therefore, what is there in Parliamentary practice and procedure is sought to be ignored and by-passed. Sir, this Budget is an example of this. The purpose of a Budget Session of the Assembly is to get the money necessary for the administration passed by the Legislature sanctioned by it. What should be done by the Government? In seeking for the money Government should place all the facts and concrete proposals so far as they can be visualised on the day of presentation of the Budget. Sir, no truth should be concealed. I now charge the Government with concealment of truth. Sir, we see before us as many as 8 Deputy Ministers; but by going through the Budget, you will find that there is provision only for 4 Deputy Ministers. Why this truth that 4 more Deputy Ministers have been appointed has been concealed from this House? We don't find either in this big book or in the Memorandum that their pay has been reduced. What more do we see? The same amount that was drawn by the two Deputy Ministers has been shown as the present requirement. Will the rest serve as Honorary Deputy Ministers? If we look to the figures, what do we find? Over the budget

estimate for the last year, on the "charged" side for example on the Governor and his staff, an increase by a sum of Rs.2,000 has been shown. I do not say it is unnatural. There has been expenditure and it has been shown. But on the 'voted' side for example on the question of Ministers we find that apart from the Chief Minister there will be only 8 Ministers. Let us remember that this Government have committed to only 8 Ministers. Let us see that a 9th Minister is not appointed. Let us also hope that even during this Session, 4 Deputy Ministers are either dismissed or made to resign. Of course I have no personal grudge against any one of my worthy Friends who have become Deputy Ministers. But the misfortune is that the people at large have taken it very badly. As a matter of fact the other day one gentleman] was saying in disgust that *** Sir, what I meant to say was that people are disgusted with so many Deputy Ministers. Again, Sir, as soon as a Minister or Deputy Minister is appointed what is expected of him? He or she should take charge of the Department, try to understand things, try to get in touch with the office files and so on and so forth so that he or she is not guided by the nose by the Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, etc., whose number is increasing every year. What we find here is that the Ministers and the Deputy Ministers are not content with the long tours they undertook during the last election. As soon as they became Ministers and Deputy Ministers they undertook long tours at Government cost.....

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): The Ministers and Deputy Ministers did not charge anything for tours during election.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

My point is when the Ministers and Deputy Ministers had enough contact with the mass people during the last election (*laughter*) what was the necessity of undertaking these long tours as soon as they became Ministers and Deputy Ministers? We say them undertaking long tours starting from Shillong to Dibrugarh and other places. It was not only to show that he or she was somebody (*laughter*) but it also enabled them to earn good travelling allowances. Sir, what have we seen during the last five years? As soon as the Session is over, some expenditure is incurred which is not voted in this House and Government afterwards bring Supplementary Demands for it and I can show by quoting chapters and verses that this practice has been there during the last five years. There was not a single Supplementary Budget where the demand for Ministers and their staff was not one of the highest. Now, here I do not want to be harsh, but I want to say, is it not dishonesty on the part of the Government to show less expenditure on account of the Ministers during the Budget Session and then bring in successive Supplementary Demands? What was in the revised estimate for 1956-57? Here we find that less expenditure has been shown on the Ministers than what was in the Budget for 1956-57. In the original Budget it was 4,77,000 rupees but in the revised Budget it has been shown 5,58,000 rupees. Here we expected that for the sake of honesty as the number has been increased, as the pay has not been reduced, a higher amount would be shown. But the money has been shown less. The amount has been shown as Rs.4,83,000 why? We will find that after the Session, Government will come forward with a Supplementary Demand on this account. Let the Government give us an assurance that no Supplementary Demand will be brought forward in this connection. Then we also see that so far as the tours of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers are concerned, during the last five years there was constant criticism on the floor of this House that the Ministers and Deputy Ministers undertake unnecessary tours. Even for opening a Middle English School which can be very well done by a Sub-Inspector of Schools or a Deputy Inspector of Schools, the Minister or a Deputy Minister will undertake a tour of 300 miles and draw a handsome Travelling Allowance from the public coffer. Sir, the purpose is something else to earn money. Now, as we find that there is no reduction, no less money has been shown on account of these tours, I rather apprehend that on this account also there will come up Supplementary Demands. Let me hope that it will not come. I give the warning that if any Supplementary Budget is brought forward

we shall not accept it. Sir, here again less money has been shown with regard to the operation in Naga Hills. Last year it was 1,25,000. This year it is shown as 1,00,000. Do you think, Sir, that it will confine to one lakh? No. In the Supplementary Budget it would be raised again. During Supplementary Demands it is invariably said by the Government that "it cannot be discussed now. We are to confine our discussions to the amount asked for. You are either to accept it or to reject it". Such words will be said by the Ministers in future also. You know, Sir, our number here in this side of the House. So the Government will carry it through. In order to seal our tongue, shut our mouth, in order to deprive us of discussion the conspiracy is there and these false and fictitious figures have been shown. The long experience of the last five years had very little effect. Of course we are hearing from some of the Hon'ble Ministers many sweet words that they are ready to take the hon. Members from the Opposition in confidence, that the matters will be looked into and so on and so forth (*laughter*). But, Sir,

মৰু তিস্তি জিহ্বাত্ৰে।

হৃদয়ে তু হলাহলম্।

So far as the General Administration is concerned, during the last five years we find that there has not been any improvement. We are always being misled. Government has been giving us misleading figures. I have already said that last year for Ministers it was 9 lakhs, but here it is shown as 8 lakhs 94 thousand. For the 'Legislative Body' when the revised figure for 1956-57 is 34 lakhs 58 thousand rupees here it is only 15 lakhs and odd in spite of the fact that 3 more hon. Members have been added. The number of Members now is 108. Last time it was 105. Then District Administration: The revised for 1956-57 was Rs.64,88,00. It has been shown here as Rs.46,30,000. Development Schemes under Article 275: the revised was Rs.45,000. Now it has been shown as Rs.40,000. In the case of Chief Minister and his staff of course it has been shown correctly. But so far as other Ministers are concerned there has been a good deal of understatement. From a sum of Rs.5,88,000 they were going to meet the expenditure when there were only 8 Ministers, 2 Deputy Ministers and 2 Parliamentary Secretaries. Their number is now increasing, but the expenditure has been shown less. In this way, Sir, there has been an attempt to mislead the House either knowingly or unknowingly. This I say because either in the budget speech of the Finance Minister or in the memorandum that has been attached to this budget

or in the details we do not see any scheme or proposal for economy—that there will be any voluntary cut in pay or anything of the sort. I say this because there are certain items about this voluntary cut in pay of Heads of Departments, Ministers, other high officers, etc. This is what our magnanimous Ministers have shown. I thank them for their frankness. In the Centre there is a voluntary cut of 10 per cent of pay of those highly placed people. In another State, namely Kerala, the Ministers pay is Rs.350 only and the Chief Minister's pay is Rs.500 only per month. Our Chief Minister gets a salary of Rs.1,500. My point is, when there is no proposal of voluntary cut or any economy or reduction in the number of Ministers, how could there be less figure shown in the Budget? I do not want to dilate on this point any more.

There are two other points on which I wanted to say and these two points were inefficiency and corruption. About inefficiency about which the less is said the better because these budget details themselves show that the number of Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and also typists and other things is increasing. Why so? Because efficiency has been decreasing. At the time of discussion of the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the floor of this House we found a proposal that there would be appointed a Commission in order to fix the 'norm' of work at least in our Secretariat. But this has not been done. There is a great deal of idling away of time. If the Ministers remain outside for 20 days in the month and if the Secretaries and Heads of Departments remain outside for about 25 days in a month then of course their office staff find sufficient scope to while away their time. That is not only in the Secretariat and Heads of Departments' offices but also in the District offices where norm of the work is not found and so there is good deal of waste of time. During the British regime there were two things—one is bureaucracy and the other efficiency. We appreciated the efficiency. Now we have bureaucracy minus efficiency in the administration. We find a great deal of corruption owing to which you do not get a copy by paying proper fees, as you shall have to give additional something as tip. Similarly you do not get a paper which you are entitled to get unless you give something to the clerk concerned and others and to the bigger officers some 'Dali' during Christmas, Pujas, Bihu or Idd festivals. So, the result has been that not only there has been increase of taxation on the people visible or invisible—but there has been this sort of taxation, that is to say, the premium on corruption. He who can pay more gets

quicker relief and the result is that the poorer the man is the greater is the denial of justice to him. When I said this in the very beginning; some of my Friends including some Ministers took great offence. It is quite true that the people have lost faith in the entire administration. Therefore, Sir, it is high time that this House is alerted to the opinion that the country holds about it. Government should be conscious about its prestige among the people. It might be said: We are the elected representatives of the people who have given us confidence in the form of vote and we are here as accredited leaders and so on and so forth. We all know after all that in this form of democracy elections are played, not only on the strength of merit but also on the length of the purse *সত্যম্ভব জয়তে* being our motto. Let us not forget this aspect also. Let us not bluff ourselves. Let us not remain content that as we have got the votes of the people, we are the accredited leaders of the people. We have still to win the heart of the people and that we can do only by running the administration honestly and faithfully. The Administration is expected not only to rule the people but also to serve them and that can be done only if those who are highly placed show an example of honesty and integrity; because example is better than precept. Up till now in our State Socialism is proceeding in the reverse, that is to say, the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, exploitation is increasing and the exploited are getting more exploited. Let us reverse that course and let us try to be true to what we say. Let us say what we mean and let us mean what we say. In this Budget I do not find that.

With these few words and with these few charges to which I expect a reply—true and faithful—from the Government I support the Motion moved by my Friend, Mr. Das.

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Cut Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Das.

Our Finance Minister has presented a deficit Budget, and the deficit is the highest in this State than ever before. But he has not suggested any remedy to make up this deficit. One of the usual methods of shortening budgetary deficits is to take effective measures of economy by pruning the different branches of our top-heavy administration. In the General Administration

there is much scope for such economy. As my Friends, Mr. Barbaruah and Mr. Bhattacharyya have said, the economy must start from the top. There are at present 8 Ministers and 8 Deputy Ministers, or I should say half-Ministers, in the State. I think more Ministers are yet to come. And for this they have allotted a sum of only Rs. 4,82,600. If we compare the last year's figures, we find that last year there was a Budget provision of Rs. 4,76,900 for 8 Ministers, 2 Deputy Ministers and 2 Parliamentary Secretaries, but in the revised estimate the actuals came to Rs. 5,57,998.

Now, Sir, we have 8 Ministers and 8 Deputy Ministers on the stage and a few more Ministers and Deputy Ministers are in the green room. But for them a sum much less than that for the last year is provided. The Government, therefore, shall have to bring a Supplementary Demand for grant under this head after a few months. It has been the habit of the Government to deceive the people by giving low figures of expenditure in the Budget and then come again with Supplementary Demands. But this time, they shall have to be satisfied with what is there in the Budget. They should be given no other option, either they should reduce their pay or reduce their numbers.

Sir, the Ministers preach austerity to the people but they do not themselves practice it. Why do they not make a voluntary cut in their pay and allowances as their brothers-in-faith in the Centre and Uttar Pradesh have done? Why the number of Ministers and half Ministers cannot be reduced? Sir, in Kerala, which has a population of 11.4 millions, they are running the administration as efficiently as in any other States in India with only 11 Ministers and no Deputy Ministers and no Parliamentary Secretaries. I do not think the worst enemy of the Kerala Government will say that the administration in Kerala is less efficient than the administration in any other part of India. Then, Sir, in addition to their salaries, a huge provision has been made for our Ministers and Deputy Ministers on account of contingencies and tour allowances. In this connection, I may state, Sir, that in the month of May, just after the formation of the Ministry, they were going about the State at Government expense. In the last week of May, nearly all the Ministers and Deputy Ministers visited Dibrugarh and I could not understand what was the ostensible purpose of their visit. Of course, the Minister in-charge of Finance who is also Minister for Supply, had some talks with the mill owners there. Barring him, I do not find

what was the purpose of other Ministers visiting Dibrugarh except to earn their Travelling Allowance or to raise funds for the ensuing Congress Session in Assam. I understand the Ministers collected good funds during their tour.

Shri MOTIRAMBORA (Minister, Home): Was not the Education Minister lying ill at the hospital at that time?

NILMONEY BARTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): That was possibly the only exception.

Now, Sir, let us contrast the pay drawn by the Ministers with the pay of the low-paid Government servant, whose minimum has been fixed at Rs. 61-8-0 in Khasi and Jaintia-Hills and Rs. 58-8-0 in the rest of the State, by the Pay Committee. We find a great disparity here. This revised pay has been fixed on the basis of figures supplied by the Statistical Department. The Statistical Department has calculated that an average family consists of 3 consumption units. This figure is either a jugglery of the Department or an invention. If a survey is carried out in this State, it will be found that the size of an average family will not be less than 3.4 consumption units. Nevertheless, they have calculated the size of a family at 3 consumption units and have stated that Rs.29 per month is necessary for one unit. This is another new invention by our Statistical Department. If we take the view of the highest authority in India, *viz.*, Dr. W. R. Aykryod, we find that calculating on the basis of 1953-54 price level, for one consumption unit, Rs.35.38 is necessary for food alone, leaving aside the cost of fuel, housing, clothes, education, festivities, etc. The food expenses alone come to Rs.35.38, taking the price level prevailing in India as a whole in the year 1953-54. But here in Assam, the price level is the highest in India. Even the Venugopal Committee, a Committee appointed by the Government of India, admitted that the price level in Assam was the highest in India. But even then, our Statistical Department calculates that in the year 1956, the minimum expenditure per consumption unit in Assam comes to Rs.29 per month! I say, Sir, this figure is wrong. But even if I accept Rs.29 per consumption unit, three times of Rs.29, *i.e.*, Rs.87 should be the basic minimum wage. But our Government have found themselves unable to accept even this low figure in view of the low national income and depleted finances of the State. If the Government have not found it possible even to give the minimum wages, I do not understand the farce of appointing a Pay Committee. Why should there have been a Pay Committee, if Government cannot accept their

recommendation ? The Government should have fixed the pay of low-paid employees at a pre-concieved level without trying to make it look scientific. But this, at least poor peoples' money will have been saved.

Then, Sir, not only in calculating the cost of living or consumption units per family, in other matters also, the figures compiled by the Statistical Department are either wrong or are a jugglery. Take for instance, the agricultural figures. From the figures furnished by the Department, we find that production is increasing every year, but I can refer to certain bulletins where they have put different figures, with regard to production of tea, production of potato, etc. Very often we find that the figures do not tally, let alone their conforming to realities. Sir, I may be permitted to state in this connection that the work of the Statistical Department is very important. It is on the basis of the figures supplied by them that Government policies are framed. It is, therefore, essential that we get correct figures. For that, I suggest that a Statistical Research Committee, consisting not only of Statisticians but also of economists and planners, should be formed and they should be entrusted with collecting correct data in our State. For example, I can say the Statistical Department have made a sample survey of 17,000 villages in the plains. But I know, Sir, their Inspectors have not visited more than 200 villages. For the rest, they must have relied on the figures supplied by the Mandals, which are bound to be fictitious. Therefore, Sir, I submit, if the Government do not take steps even now to devise a machinery to collect proper figures and to collect and systematise them, there will be no basis for the policies to be adopted by Government and all the State's plans will, therefore, go to pieces and with it the future of the people of the State will also go to pieces.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Cut Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, I would like to emphasise the importance of improving the tone of administration

for the successful implementation of our plans. Rightly, Sir, we have taken up as the first demand the demand for General Administration because without an efficient and prompt Administration it is not possible to carry out any plan, whoever may be at the helm of the affairs. However, laudable may be our plans, if we do not have an efficient administration we cannot implement the plans. Sir, while discussing about this tone of administration, one thing we have to remember is that the Ministers are the framers of policies only. They are to decide upon the policies and leave them to the administration. The task of carrying out this policy, which means that sufficient initiative must be left with the administration lies in the officers. Otherwise there is no meaning in giving such high salaries to some of our Secretaries, Heads of Departments and to our district administrative officers. If we treat them only as workers who are supposed to do what we dictate, it is really a sad thing. In our State that initiative has been taken out from the hands of our officers so far as the policy matter is concerned. I can see that initiating the policy must be with the Government but they have not done that. The officers, I feel, Sir, should be given the full freedom to carry out their initiative. Unfortunately, wherever we go we find that the officers—I mean the officers of to-day—lack the initiative. The very brilliant officers in our cadre—though they are very good officers—dare not do anything lest they may incur displeasure to the Minister concerned with the Department. Sir, it has gone to the extent that in the matter of making appointment of a peon or that of a Lower Division Assistant, the dictates from above that so and so must be taken in were carried out. The officers, therefore, had to take them just because if they do not do so, they may be transferred to other places or they may not get their promotion or whatever it may be from the Government. Sir, this factor has to be very carefully considered. In a democratic society there was a division of labour and one should not enter into such a domain unnecessarily. In that domain he must be fully free to carry out the programme. The Minister will be there. If there is anything wrong in implementation of the programme, the Minister is there to correct him. But so long as he is carrying it out faithfully, my submission is that the officer must be given full initiative and full freedom to carry out his work. Unfortunately (I need not go into the

specific cases of this nature) however, this has been the case with our officers. They do not feel that they have the initiative. Secondly, Sir, our officers have been overburdened in certain cases like the District Administrative Heads with some unnecessary functions. Whenever a Minister visits or is to pass through Gauhati, he wants that the Deputy Commissioner should be there to pay his respect or whatever that may be even unnecessarily. Almost in a week one Minister will visit Gauhati and if somebody from the Centre comes to Borjhar, we want that the Deputy Commissioner should go and meet him. There are as many as 30 to 40 Committees over which we want the Deputy Commissioner to preside. Then also the Deputy Commissioner is to tour the district. Unless there is some rationalisation of the work and unless we can leave the Deputy Commissioner or other officers free from things which he is not required to do and give him more specific work wherein he can devote more time, our administration is bound to suffer. Sir, some how or other politics has entered into the administration also. We find that our officers, because they fear of transfers and want to be promoted, instead of coming from the front door they have taken the back door for receiving financial patronage. He is allowed to do certain work for the Minister which he is not entitled to do. I know of such cases with the Election Officers of Government who are ever eager to please the party in power. They openly supported the party in power, and even when the attention of the Government was drawn and enquiries made, no action on such officers was taken. I do not want to blame the officers. I was in correspondence with the Chief Minister on this matter, and, I must say that inspite of reminders, inspite of my earnest request that the matter should be considered properly and enquiries made and also inspite of the fact that the then Hon'ble Finance Minister said on the floor of the House that Government will not allow any officer to indulge in politics, these officers were allowed to do so in contravention of their profession. Sir, this is because the spirit of pleasing certain party has developed in our officers due to the fact that by pulling wires from behind they may be able to get certain amount of consideration from Government. We want the co-operation of the officers, no doubt, but at the same time, those officers who have been serving Government with devotion should also be given promotion. Sir, these things are important because they alone can tone up our administration. If we are really to succeed in toning up our administration and winning the best confidence and co-operation from our people, we must make our administration free from politics. Just now, the Finance

Minister stated that it will take ten years to have the beginning of what we want the administration to be. Sir, ten years may be for perfection of the administration but even now for five years we have been shouting here and outside, not a single step was taken by Government to remove the difficulties which our people want to be removed immediately. Sir, I will also come to the question of the Cabinet. It has been said here the other day that it is necessary to remember that we are for a very bad time, we are short of funds and we have not got enough finance to implement our plans and meet our requirements. But here in this House in 1952, we criticised that the Cabinet should not have a ten Minister Cabinet. We are told that the Cabinet should not be a bigger one. This matter should be looked into in future for the sake of administration of the Government and not for fulfilling the party affiliation. We had to increase the size of the Cabinet to 10. Not only there are 10 Ministers, we have got 8 Deputy Ministers. If the newspaper report is correct, we are going to have two more Deputy Ministers. There may be two or three Parliamentary Secretaries. Sir, in a House of 108 and with a population of less than a crore we are to have ten Ministers ! Is it necessary ? Is it not possible to rationalise the work and to run the administration with less than 10 Ministers, 8 Deputy Ministers and two or three Parliamentary Secretaries ?

Secondly, about pay also I do not grudge. Because I know that many people earn more than what they are getting here as pay. This is a political aspect on their life. As Minister they must suffer. When that is the position it is necessary that their pay should be reduced. It is always easy to justify a certain thing as lawyers very often do, and that on either side something can be said by arguments which can always be advanced. But, Sir, my point is, looking from the whole state of affairs obtaining in the State and considering the same from economic aspect, political aspect and every other aspect, is it not time for us to make a beginning and show to others that we have reduced the pay so that the people also show eagerness for sacrifice for the successful implementation of the Second Five Year Plan.

Then, Sir, about tours we discussed this matter here in this House. It is not necessary that two or three Ministers should go to a certain place, and also it is not necessary that a Minister should visit the same place after two or three days when another Minister has already visited the same place. Sometimes it happens that over-night a Minister

goes to a place for two hours, say for instance, Dibrugarh and next morning he comes back to Gauhati and we find the next day he goes to Dhubri. Is it not possible to rationalise that type of tour? The responsibility of the Ministry is collective responsibility. Suppose a particular Minister, say, Minister for Food and Agriculture visits a certain place, if something regarding Education, something regarding Public Works Department are told by the people to him then he can on his return from the tour apprise the Minister, Education or the Minister, Public Works Department about what he was told by the people. Is it necessary that all the Ministers should visit the same place at a time? We know that the tours are also very expensive. So the number of tours should be reduced. I do not say that the tours are not necessary. Only those tours should be undertaken by those Ministers who will be able to know things on the spot, and secondly it is not necessary that there should be duplication of tours where it could be easily avoided.

I hope the Ministers will accept this suggestion. I do not say this with any feeling or with a view to bring them down. But this is the feeling of the people, and I hope that they will consider this.

With these few words I resume my seat.

Mr SPEAKER: I would invite the attention of the hon. Members to the Rule 17(1) which prohibits any reference to any matter of fact if a judicial decision is pending. Now this applies both to the debates in general as well as discussions on the Demands for Grants. This Rule is on all fours with the practice of the House of Commons where any reference to matters pending a judicial decision are out of order.

Rule 210 of the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha rules out any cut motion to a demand for grant which relates to a matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India. Under the circumstances, any reference to a matter pending before a law court shall be out of order. I therefore direct that reference made by the hon. Member from Karimganj in moving his Cut motion to a case which is under adjudication of the Hon'ble Assam High Court is out of order and as such it should be expunged from today's proceedings.

Adjournment

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

(After Lunch)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Mr. Speaker Sir, as many as five hon. Member of the Opposition have taken part in the discussion on the Cut Motion. Sir, some of the observations they have been pleased to make are welcome to me and I agree with some of the observations they have made, but some of them, I am afraid, are not based on facts and are rather unfair to Government. I will try to reply to all the points raised by my Friends opposite, if time permits. If, however, for want of time I may not be able to meet all their points, I request my Friends not to go with the impression that Government is going to neglect their observations. that are worth consideration.

Now, Sir, both my Friends, Mr. Bhattacharyya and Mr. Borthakur, from Dibrugarh, have pointedly drawn the attention of the Government and of this House that the present budgeting is not an honest budgeting and that there are some concealment of facts especially the budgeting with regard to the pay and establishment of Ministers. My Friends' contention is this, Sir. The amount of over 5 lakhs was shown last year under this head, or in other words the actual revised expenditure under that head came to over 5 lakhs and odd and this time in the present budget under this head a provision of 4 lakhs of rupees and odd has been made. My Friend's contention is that when we are having the same number of Ministers and when the number of Deputy Ministers has increased to more than double, why then under this head the expenditure has been shown as more than a lakh less and for that they allege that this is not an honest budgeting and that there has been concealment of facts. My Friend's apprehension is that we are showing less now because we will come up later with a supplementary demand to make up that figure. Now, Sir, my Friend's apprehension is baseless. If he will only scrutinise and examine the figures more closely he will find that this time we are using knife to the utmost. It is known to hon. Members of this House that we are required to contribute a large amount of money from this State for the Second Five-Year Plan, and financial position of the State being very difficult we have to take drastic measure of economy and drastic cut is sought to be made everywhere keeping in view safety and efficiency in the administration. It will be seen, Sir, that

under this head last year travelling allowance of Minister was Rs.1 lakh 25 thousand whereas this time it is only Rs.90 thousand. Thus under this head we have reduced the travelling allowance of Ministers by Rs.35 thousands. There have been complaints that Ministers are going on tour too frequently and also unnecessarily, and therefore travelling allowance is mounting up. If my Friend examines the budget figures closely he will find that the travelling allowance of Ministers this year has been reduced to 90 thousand rupees only. Then again last year a sum of over 6 lakhs had been provided for purchase of cars for the Ministers, but this year this amount was not shown because we are not going to purchase any new cars for the Ministers. So if you deduct this amount of Rs.35 thousands *plus* Rs. 6 lakhs as I have stated above, the expenditure under this head, about which my Friend has objected, actually comes to four lakhs and odd. So there is nothing dishonesty in this year's budgeting nor there is any concealment of facts.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): On a point of information, Sir, is not the number of Deputy Ministers increased this time?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): I am coming to that, Sir. So far as Deputy Ministers are concerned the explanation is very simple. According to the Budget Manual all items of expenditure to be incorporated in the Budget are required to be sent by the Departments concerned before 15th October each year. At that time it could not by all human imagination be ascertained what could be the number of Deputy Ministers in the next Government.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Was not the necessity for having more Deputy Ministers foreseen and if not, why?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: Sir, the new Government was only constituted on the 22nd April last whereas the budget provision had to be made much before that date. As such, the provision made for Deputy Ministers during the last year, had to be kept for the current year. When the new Ministry was constituted with eight Deputy Ministers, it was not possible to make any alteration in the budget figures. It was not possible to cut or alter figures as it was too late then

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :

I am pointing out that this is in flagrant violation of sub-rule (4) of Rule 117 of the Assembly Rules.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) : From 4, it was increased to 8 and the expenditure on 8 Deputy Ministers could not be incorporated in the Budget as alteration of the budget figures would be necessary, and this was not possible. After the formation of the Ministry when the Budget was placed before the Cabinet, it was found that it was not possible to alter the figures. That is why it was allowed to remain as it is. No body could foresee what number of Deputy Ministers would be needed. Sir, how could we provide for 8 Deputy Ministers at the time of preparation of the Budget without knowing what number of Deputy Ministers would be needed ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Whether a thing that is already known at the time of framing the Budget can be left on for a Supplementary Budget in the future ? Is it not a fact that only for unforeseen things Supplementary Budget is warranted ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : How could an outgoing Ministry foresee what number of Deputy Ministers would be required ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Do we understand that this Budget was the Budget of the outgoing Ministry ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Yes in a sense. The new Ministry came into being on 22nd April, but it was too late after 22nd April to alter those figures.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : These are all post-mortem figures.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : That is inevitable ; nobody could foresee what number of Deputy Ministers would be needed.

CAPTAIN WILLIAMSON SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : What about Parliamentary Secretaries; are we going to have them?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home). How can I say that? This is a question which cannot be replied by me.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : In the Budget it is shown nil. So the principle is that there will be no Parliamentary Secretaries. What is the opinion of Government?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Government have not yet come to a decision in this matter.

Now, I would go to some general observations made by my hon. Friends in the Opposition. First I take observation No.1 that the Administration is top-heavy in our State. Most of the hon. Members who have brought this charge against the Government waxed eloquent that we are allowing the Administration to become top-heavy. Sir, I would only be too happy if I could accept this statement as true, but, I have examined the case and find that it is absolutely otherwise. This can be illustrated by referring to certain facts and by a comparison with other States. If we look to the cadre of Administrative Service in Assam and if we compare it with Orissa or Kerala what do we find? We will only find that the cadre in Assam is the smallest one. The cadre in Assam is 55, in Orissa it is 85 and in Kerala 66. If Assam is compared with Kerala, we will find that in Kerala they have a cadre of 66 while we have only 55. So we stand a favourable comparison with Kerala. Similarly the cadre in Orissa is 85 whereas our cadre is 55. Here also we stand a favourable comparison.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : On a point of information, whether our area is bigger than West Bengal and whether our cadre is bigger than West Bengal?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Our cadre cannot be bigger than that of West Bengal. West Bengal have a much bigger cadre than Assam. As I said, the cadre in Assam is the smallest in the Indian Union; we have got only a cadre of 55 and our Administration cannot be called top-heavy.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : (Gauhati) Then the number of our Ministers should be reduced to half.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Why does he confuse the cadre of administrative service with Ministers' cadre? His statement is that our administration is top-heavy.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Including the Ministers.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: How can Ministers come in here, Sir? I am refuting the allegation that our administration is top-heavy. After carefully comparing the figures with Orissa and Kerala, I have been, I think, able to convince the House that we stand a favourable comparison. You will find that we stand a much better comparison.

Then again if you look from another angle, you will find that we are much better situated. If you consider the amount of money that is consumed by our officers who draw Rs.800 or more and compare that figure with the amount needed for the rest of the establishment, you will be convinced that our administration is not at all top-heavy. What is the amount that is needed for these officers in comparison with the total expenditure of the State of Assam in Establishment? This figure was taken in 1954-55 and it was found in that year that the total expenditure required for maintaining such officers who draw Rs.800 or more in the State is 3.5 per cent of the total expenditure under the head, "Pay and Establishment". Only 3.5 per cent of the total expenditure under "Pay and Establishment" is consumed by the so-called top-heavy administration? If the question is looked from this angle, it will be seen that the administration in Assam is never top-heavy. On the contrary it is otherwise. My hon. Friend, Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, was only complaining, about an hour or so ago that we have not been able to place a Subdivisional Officer in his Subdivision and we are satisfied by allowing a Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner to work as Subdivisional Officer there. Why it is so? Because the cadre is very small in our State. Sometimes it so happens that we cannot depute a certain officer for some urgent work because of our inability to find a suitable substitute. From all quarters pressure has been put on this Government to increase the cadre. That is the position. To say that the administration is top-heavy is not borne out by facts.

The second statement, rather the second charge against the Government, is that our administration is inefficient and not only inefficient, they allege that we in Assam have an absolutely inefficient administration. I am sorry, my Friends in the Opposition have made an unjust and unfair estimate of our officers in the State. Sir, only very recently we passed through a very stupendous work of election like all other States of the Indian Union. From the preparation of the electoral roll to the completion of the election it was a very stupendous work. It is really a very stupendous work in a State like ours where a big percentage of the people are still illiterate. They carried out this stupendous and arduous work very smoothly and very successfully and in course of general discussion of the Budget and Governor's speech, I am happy to note that no hon. Members from the Opposition could cite an instance of inefficiency on that score. In spite of successfully performing this stupendous task by our officers, it is really unkind to some of my Friends to say that our officers are inefficient. If this is the case, how can you expect zeal, enthusiasm and earnestness from our officers? After all, you must give the Devil his due. Sir, this successful performance of this huge work by our officers has evoked the admiration of all people both inside and outside this State.

Of course, I do not say that there is no inefficiency in any branch of the Government. There may be some amount of inefficiency in some of the branches, but to brand the whole set of officers as inefficient is doing injustice to our State and our officers. For this inefficiency in some spheres, there are obvious reasons. Before Independence, this State was a Police State with the main purpose of keeping law and order but all on a sudden this has been converted into a Welfare State and this Welfare State has been called upon to take up manifold development activities with the result that we have had to take near about ten thousand fresh recruits within the last ten years and when such recruitment had to be made, naturally some of our officers must be in experienced and are not having the same efficiency as our former officers used to have. In those pre-Independence days, an administrative officer could not aspire to become a Deputy Commissioner or Superintendent of Police or Head of a Department without serving for 10 to 15 years in different capacities in different places of the State. But what do we find now? An officer—a comparatively very junior and young man with five or six years' service to his credit, is being appointed as Deputy Commissioner or Superintendent of Police or Executive Engineer. The same state of affairs is found

in the Secretariat and other offices. In order to rectify these deficiencies and inexperience, the Government have already taken some definite actions. In order to tone up the administration, they have revived the posts of the two Commissioners. As the House is well aware, while the Congress was in the Opposition they urged vehemently for the abolition of the two posts of Commissioners, but this Government, after realising that these posts are essentially necessary in the new set up of things and for better administration, have revived these posts. After reviving these posts it has been found that they have served a very useful and helpful purpose, namely, the toning up of the administration and giving advice and guidance to our officers.

Besides, Sir, we have started some training classes in the districts as well as in the Secretariat. For Deputy Commissioners' Offices one batch has already completed training and a second batch is under training now. Similarly in the Secretariat we have introduced a training class and a large number of assistants have already been trained in administrative matters and fresh recruits are being trained. Not only that, we are going to have a training institute for training administrative officers and when this starts functioning, not only new administrative officers will be imparted training, but the older officers will be also given training as a refresher course. Already appreciable result is visible after taking up these steps and if things continue in this manner for another 3 or 4 years, I am sure, inefficiency in administration will be a thing of the past.

Sir, a lot of things has been said by some of my Friends in the Opposition about corruption. This matter also was referred to in course of the debates in the general discussion of the Budget and discussion on Governor's speech. My hon. Friend, the Finance Minister, made a very lucid statement in this connection as to what steps are being taken and how we are going to do away with corruption. Sir, my Friend, the Finance Minister, has given a nice and lucid statement on this score and therefore, I do not want to say much on this subject. Sir, all that is possible is being done and I can only tell my Friend one thing. Our Assam Officers, if compared with the Officers of some other States on this score, are expected to stand a favourable comparison. I feel myself confident that our officers will give a better account of themselves.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gaubati) : Who is incharge of the Anti-Corruption Department?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) : My Friend the Finance Minister, is in-charge of the Anti-Corruption Department. With regard to District Establishment which is under his control, our officers have rendered good account of themselves and have also performed a lot of difficult tasks and I am really proud of them. Now, Sir, I will go to the third charge that has been levelled against the Government, regarding wastefulness. Shri Bhattacharyya said that the Ministers have become extravagant and Shri Borbaruah said that Ministers make unnecessary tours. I may bring to the notice of the hon. Members of this House that by using the pruning knife—we are going to cut down the expenditure. Last year the expenditure on this head was one lakh and twenty-five thousand and now we are going to cut down the expenditure on this score to ninety thousand; that is an eloquent testimony that Government is trying to avoid unnecessary expenditure wherever possible. Sir, I do not admit that this Government is wasteful in their expenditure and I find that except making the allegation that the Government is wasteful, no specific suggestion has been given by any hon. Member as to where it is extravagant and how to avoid it. In this connection, Sir, I would like to say that this Government is very conscious of its obligation on this score, and, therefore, the Government have already taken some steps in that direction. The Government have appointed already an Economy Committee. That Committee had gone thoroughly into this question and the recommendations of that Committee is under examination of Government and Government will surely give due effect to it after examination. Not only that Sir, this Government has also taken other steps by appointing the Organisation and Method Division Department. This Department will be responsible for the suitable distribution of works among the different officers and office assistants and is expected to bring about some rationalisation and equitable distribution of works and it will enable Government to avoid some wasteful expenditure in the administration.

Now another charge has been levelled against the Government by Shri Nilmoney Borthakur of Dibrugarh. My Friend has stated that there has been much too disproportionate disparity between the lower grade employees and the highly paid officers. He charged the Government with maintaining that disparity which, according to him is very high. In this connection, Sir, I would like to refer him, to the speech of the Finance Minister the other day in which he has stated that even the Planning Commission considers that the ratio

of 1 to 30 is reasonable. But here in Assam the ratio is between 1 to 23 only ; so it is much better than the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Sir, before making the recommendation, the Planning Commission collected figures from all over the world. They scrutinised everything, then they come to the conclusion that the disparity between one to thirty is reasonable, but in our State the disparity is between one and twenty-three only.....

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Sir, the all-India ratio is calculated by taking into account the pay and allowances of very highly paid officials, *viz.*, the Chairman of D. V. G., Director of Bhakra Nangal, Oil and Natural Gas Commission officials, etc. As there are no such highly paid officials in Assam the comparison of ratio does not prove anything.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): I am coming to that. Though the disparity in our State is 1 to 23 only yet the Government is not satisfied. They want to reduce it still further, if possible, and for that reason we have taken steps. What action has been taken by our Government during the last four years on this score? We had one Pay Committee in 1948 and some financial assistance was given to the low paid officers according to the financial resources available at that time. Then again a revision was made in 1954 in our State. Then in 1956 we had another Pay Committee. So you will see that we have already had three revisions. The recommendations of the last Pay Committee will entail an additional expenditure of one crore and twenty-five lakhs of rupees. Over and above this, Sir, this Government have never said that what they have done is final and as a matter of fact the Finance Minister yesterday stated that more relief may be given to the Lower Primary School teachers to the extent of Rs.5 per head per month as dearness allowance. This shows, Sir, that this Government is doing all it can to reduce the disparity, consistent with the availability of revenue.

As a matter of fact, Sir, these low grade Government employees will be getting a minimum emolument of Rs.66-8-0 per month.....

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North)
What about the teachers?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: I am speaking of the Government Servants, Sir. So far as the teachers are concerned, they are not Government employees. Now if we compare their condition with that of the average villager, what do we find? The Statistics Department has given us the information that an agriculturist villager gets about Rs.50 or round about as income from cultivation per month. When such a villager gets an appointment as a peon, he will get Rs.66-8-0 per month as his

total emolument. Certainly when the question is looked from this angle, it cannot be said that this Government is not doing anything for the low grade Government Servants. So if the question is viewed from that angle, it will be seen that we are trying to remove the disparity as far as we can, consistent with our other limitations. I do not say, we have said the last say in this matter. It needs further improvement no doubt, and let us hope that when the schemes under the Second Five-Year Plan are executed, the national income will go up and the Government may be in a position to review this question and to see if further improvement can be effected. So it is the constant effort of the Government to reduce the disparity within as short a time as possible. So the charge levelled against the Government by my Friend, Shri Borthakur, from Dibrugarh does not stand to scrutiny. Now having disposed of those broad charges brought against the Government, I shall take up certain matters. I mean an allegation brought by my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, from Karimganj. Now, Sir, my Friend, Shri Das, had an allegation against a Government Officer who has been temporarily put in charge of the Subdivision of the Karimganj. He has used a word 'illegitimate child'.

Mr. SPEAKER: That word has been withdrawn.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Thank you, Sir, I forgot about it. Sir, so far as this Officer is concerned, Government received a resolution passed in a public meeting with some allegation against him. As usual, Government in such cases will make enquiries and take necessary steps. My Friend had stated that this officer entered Government service through back-door. It is not at all true. He entered service through the Public Service Commission like all others. He has been put in charge of the Subdivision only as a temporary measure. As a matter of fact, Shri Gill was to go there as the Subdivisional Officer, but for certain reasons, for urgent necessity, he had been sent elsewhere. Therefore a temporary vacancy occurred and the Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner was allowed to act as the Subdivisional Officer as usual as a temporary measure, till a suitable substitute can be sent there. Sir, I can inform the House that already orders have been passed to send a suitable officer to Karimganj as Subdivisional Officer.

Sir, my Friend, Shri Borbaruah, has made a remark that our Secretariat is a white elephant. Sir, I am sorry, my Friend has made an uncharitable remark against so many officers who are working so hard. Sir, has he not seen for himself that our officers are working here from morning till 10 p.m. at night these days?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): He means the building.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Probably so.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : If the Secretariat is functioning properly, then why is there so much delay in getting a reply from the Government? I also suggested that 20 per cent or so may be withdrawn and employed for useful purposes.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) : Sir, my Friend has no idea as to how many letters are daily received by the Secretariat. How many letters a Minister now-a-days get every day, cannot be imagined by my Friend.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) : In Democracy, there is bound to be delay. In a totalitarian country, you can do a certain thing by a stroke of pen. In Russia one thing may be decided by the authority at the point of the revolver.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Sir, another charge has been brought against the Ministers that they unnecessarily spend a lot of money by keeping guards. Sir, the Ministers never employ guards. He has seen that during the last general election while I was touring in his constituency, I did not take any guard and I also did not use the Government vehicle (*Interruption*).

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH : Everyone knows that the Minister's car is followed by a vehicle with Policemen, armed and unarmed (*Interruptions*).

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Sir, in his very constituency in Amguri, was I not touring without any guard, any Policeman (*Interruption*)? The Ministers are the representatives of the people. Why should they be afraid of going in the midst of the people?

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH : That is our question.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : After all whom should we be afraid of, Sir? We are not afraid of Mr. Bhattacharyya or Mr. Barbaruah. My Friend, Mr. Barbaruah has referred to the use of big cars by the Ministers. These cars were purchased last year. What should be done when these cars will have to be replaced by new cars is under the consideration of the Government.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Why the Ministers did not purchase cars themselves and why they used State cars unlike in the Centre?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : For that my Friend is responsible, because he also took part in making the legislation passing the Ministers' Salaries and Allowances Bill, in which it has been provided that Ministers be given State cars. Probably

it is known to the Members of this House that our foreign exchange position is far from satisfactory and so the purchase of new foreign cars is being drastically curtailed all over India. Even our Prime Minister himself has directed to avoid purchasing such foreign new cars for the State at least for some time to come and so we are to run with the existing cars as far as possible to save our foreign exchange. (Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah : What is directed from Delhi, our Ministers humbly submit.) We have to do so in such matters, because when it is a question of foreign exchange we cannot ignore their direction. So far as foreign exchange is concerned, we are in a tight corner and you cannot do unless the Central Government help us in this matter of purchase of foreign cars with foreign exchange.

My Friend, Mr. Barbaruah, made some reference to the recommendation of the Pay Committee and he has taken objection to one thing, that is, how can we treat the Sericulture Inspectors and the graduate teachers as of the same category. I could not follow what he means. If the Sericulture Inspectors are educated persons and do as valuable work as the graduate teachers, what is the harm if they are treated as equal and what is the objection in putting these two classes of officers as same? Mr. Barthakur has said that graduate teachers do valuable work. But I do not like to say that the educated Sericulture Inspectors do not render valuable work. We cannot underestimate their work also. Both the categories of officers render the same kind of valuable work in their respective departments.

He also has made an uncharitable remark about the Chief Minister's Secretariat. He has said that there are as many as 23 persons in the Chief Minister's Secretariat. It is not true. There is one Superintendent, and a few assistants in his Secretariat. So, his statement is not borne out by facts. (Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah : It is found here that there are as many as 23 personnel, may be some of them are 4th grade personnel.) I cannot agree with my Friend. I do not believe that where there are few assistants, there can be a large number of orderlies. For his information I should like to state one thing. In the rest of the Indian Union or in different States of India most of the Chief Ministers retain senior I.C.S. Officers or senior Administrative Officers as Private Secretaries and so this can be well imagined how much more expenditure is incurred there. But here in our State our Chief Minister has retained only a Provincial Service man as his Principal Private Secretary which involves much less expenditure.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : On a point of information, Sir, including the Chief Minister his Secretariat has 24 persons and not 23. I will read from this : 4th grade establishment 10, Assistants 9, Personal Assistants 3, Private Secretary 1, one Chief Minister (*laughter*).

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) : We have only taken from Provincial Service cadre one officer as Private Secretary and that shows how we are saving expenditure. We could have appointed such an officer from the I.C.S. or I.A.S., cadre, but in that case expenditure would have been much more.

My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, referred to one thing : that although the Public Accounts Committee made a recommendation for establishing a Committee to fix standards and norms in our State, no step has been taken by Government. As a matter of fact, Sir, I can state that the same work which was intended to be done by that Committee, is being done by the Methods and Organisation Department. We also appointed a Special Officer to go into this question. That officer has made certain recommendations, which are under examination of Government. Government are likely to accept his recommendations as far as possible and some improvement in this matter will be effected.

Then, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Goswami, made certain observations of a general nature. While replying to the general observations made by several hon. Members, I have replied to his observations as well.

My Friend, Mr. Goswami, stated that this Government were encouraging their officers to take to politics and help the Congress Party in the elections. This insinuation has no basis whatsoever. Sir, I was not present at the time when the counting of votes for the Rampur and Gauhati constituencies took place at Gauhati, but I have got reports that there was great jubilation on the part of a large number of officers when announcements were made that my Friends, Mr. Goswami and Mr. Bhattacharyya, had won defeating the Congress candidates. The jubilation was open and some of the officers made an exhibition of it. We know those officers, but still we have not taken any action against them (*A voice*) : How can you ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : There should be a legislation that they cannot smile !

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, (Home)) : Not only smiling ; the jubilation went beyond normal limits. Still, Sir, we did not take any action against those officers. That shows how this Government is impartial in this matter and are not encouraging any party politics amongst our officers.

With these few observations, Sir, I request the House to accept my Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER : May I know from Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das whether he is going to withdraw his Cut Motion ?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) : No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that the total provision of Rs.1,30,19,500 under Grant No.11, Major head 25.—General Administration, at page 58 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,30,19,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The Motion was negatived.)

(After a pause)

Now I put the original Motion.

The question is that a sum of Rs.1,30,19,500 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1958, for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration."

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No. 20

(40.—Agriculture)

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,71,21,800 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1958, for the administration of the head "40.—Agriculture".

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is :

That a sum of Rs 1,71,21,800 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course

of payment during the year ending 31st March 1958, for the administration of the head "40.—Agriculture".

There are seven Cut Motions to this grant. I would like to be enlightened from the Opposition whether they would like to move all the Cut Motions or only one.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Only one will do.

Mr. SPEAKER: Which one ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: No.3 will be moved.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari—West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to moved that the total provision of Rs.1,71,21,800 under Grant No.20, Major head-40.—Agriculture, at page 224 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,71,21,800 do stand reduced by Re.1.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): I rise on a point of order, Sir. The purpose of this Cut Motion is to criticise the agrarian policy of the Government. The Agriculture Department has nothing to do with it. "Agrarian policy" is a matter pertaining to the Revenue Department. The Cut Motion is, therefore, out of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the hon. Mover got to say anything about it ?

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA: Agrarian policy বোলোতে নই Agriculture Department গৰ্ভক্ষে কৰ খোজো।

Mr. SPEAKER: The difficulty is that "agrarian policy" is a subject-matter which comes under the Revenue Department. The Agriculture Department has very little to do with the agrarian policy of Government. This demand relates to Agriculture and not to the agrarian policy of Government. My difficulty was that we have no rules regarding admissibility of Cut Motions. If I were to be guided by the practice in the House of Commons or the Lok Sabha, I could have ruled it out of order at the beginning. But I am handicapped because there is no rule in this House which entitles me to rule out any Cut Motion at the time of admissibility.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Here the practice has been to print all Cut Motions in the order paper and when any one is objected to as out of order, the Speaker, if he upholds the objection, rules it out on the floor of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I feel under the circumstances that this Motion has to be ruled out of order. The Opposition will have to move any other Cut Motion.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,71,21,800 under Grant No.20, Major head, 40—Agriculture, at page 224 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,71,21,800, do stand reduced by Re. 1.

The object is to criticise the wastage of public fund in the Agriculture Farms and the supply and propagation of unreliable and misleading statistics by the Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have got only one observation to make. This Motion seeks to criticise "the wastage of public fund in the Agriculture Farms and the supply and propagation of unreliable and misleading statistics by the Department". Therefore, all criticisms under this Cut Motion will have to be confined to these two items. No discussion of a general nature will be permitted because these two items are specifically mentioned here.

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):

So, Sir, No. 5 may be taken up which will cover all.

Mr. SPEAKER: It has already been decided.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: Sir,

কৃষি বিভাগে যে ভালেমান টকা অপব্যয় কৰিছে এইটো সকলোৰে জনা কথা। মই অতিমাত্রা ব্যাখ্যাতলৈ নগৈ দুই এটা মাত্ৰ উদাহৰণ ডাঙি ধৰিব খুজিছোঁ।

যোৰহাটত বিখন কৃষি ফাৰ্ম আছে তাত কঁহিৰাব খেতি কৰা হৈছে। মোৰ বিশ্বাস তাৰ পৰা গৰণমেণ্টৰ ছটা পয়চাও লাভ হোৱা নাই। বোধকৰো তাত গৰণমেণ্টে বছৰি দহ হাজাৰৰ অধিক টকা ক্ষতিপূৰণ দিব লগা হয়। যদিহে সেই ফাৰ্মখন গৰণমেণ্টে লাভৰ উদ্দেশ্যে চলালেহেতেন তেনেহলে বোধকৰো ভালহলহেতেন আৰু টেক্স হিচাপে খেতিয়ক সকলৰ পৰা অন্য টকাৰো অপচয় নহল হেতেন। সেই ফাৰ্ম যদি self-sufficient হব মোৰাৰে তেনেহলে বাইজৰ টকা এনেদৰে খৰচ কৰা উচিত নহয়।

তাৰ উপৰিও যেতিয়া বাইজৰ বিপদ হয়, যেনে বানপানী হয়, সেই বানপানী যোৱাৰ লগে লগে কঠিয়াৰ দৰকাৰ হয়। সময়ত আলুৰ আৰু আছধানৰ দৰকাৰ হয়। কিন্তু যেতিয়া বানপানী শেষ হই যায় আৰু খেতিৰো সময় উঠি যায় তেতিয়াহে কৃষি বিভাগে কঠিয়া উলিয়ায়হি। যেতিয়া আলুগুটি দিয়ে তেতিয়া হয়তো সময়েই উকলি যায়। তাকো মানুহে ২০ সেৰ বিচাৰিলে ১০ সেৰহে পায়।

Mr. SPEAKER : মাননীয় সদস্য ডাঙরীয়াই যি উদ্দেশ্য লৈ Cut Motion আনিছে তাত দেখিব “To criticise the wastage of public fund in the Agriculture Farms and the supply and propagation of unreliable and misleading statistics by the Department” সেই কাৰণে তেখেতে এই দুটা কথাহে সমালোচনা কৰিব পাৰে আৰু আন কথা কলে অবাঞ্ছন্য হব।

The Cut motion is specific on two points, viz., to criticise (i) the wastage of public fund in the Agriculture Farms, and (ii) the supply and propagation of unreliable and misleading statistics by the Department.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Are we to understand that when we speak on the Cut Motion, we are not allowed to speak on the motion as a whole ? Sir, I think if we speak on the Cut Motion, we can also lay emphasis on the Motion in general.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Sir, suppose we have got no Cut Motion, what will happen ?

Mr. SPEAKER : When a particular Member moves a Cut Motion on particular items, then he is to confine himself in those items only. Then only the Cut Motion will be in order.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Will he get two chances?

Mr. SPEAKER : There are three kinds of Cut Motions viz., (1) Disapproval Cut Motion (2) Economy Cut Motion, and (3) Token Cut Motion. The Cut Motion in question is a token Cut Motion under which only one or two grievances may be discussed. The hon. Member has specifically mentioned that he wanted to discuss two items only. Therefore, he is bound to discuss the two items only. These are the policies followed in the Lok Sabha and in the House of Commons.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Sir, because I have not moved my Cut Motion, it does not debar me from speaking on the Cut Motion !

Mr. SPEAKER : In a Cut Motion to raise a general discussion, if other Members want to speak, they can speak on both the Cut Motions. The hon. Member from Amguri will have to confine his observations to that Cut Motion.

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : On a point of information, Sir, I have got one Cut Motion here.

Mr. SPEAKER : Hon. Members can speak on the Cut Motions without moving them.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) :

Sir, মই এই দুটাৰ সম্বন্ধেই আলোচনা কৰিছোঁ। মই কৈছোঁ যে এই কঠীয়া আনুগুটি আৰু আহু ধান সময় মতে নোপোৱাত সকলো নষ্ট হৈ যায়। আনুগুটি নোনাতি লৈ যায় আৰু ২০ সেৰ বুলি কয়। কিন্তু জুখিলে ১৫ সেৰহে ওলায়। কোনো আপত্তি নুভুনে তাকে লবই লাগিব। সময়ত বস্ত বা সাহায্য নোপোৱাত জনসাধাৰণে কঠীয়া, আনু, আহুধান নলয়। গতিকে এই আনুগুটি কি হয়? লাহে লাহে নষ্ট হৈ যায়। আহুধানো পোকে খাই নষ্ট কৰে। সেই কাৰণে এই বিলাকৰ অৱাৰতে পৰচা নষ্ট হয়। পচা আনুগুটি বাদ দি ভাল মি থাকে সেইখিনি উভতি যায়। এই দৰে গৈ গৈ Officer আৰু লগেলগে কংগ্ৰেছী মুখ্য লোক সকলৰ হাতত পৰেগৈ। দ্বিতীয় কথা হৈছে এইয়ে খেতিয়ক সকলক Training দিব লাগে। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে Training Centre খুলিব লাগে আৰু তাৰ নিমিত্তে Special Farm থাকিব লাগে। গাঁৱলীয়া মানুহক আনি সেই Farmত শিক্ষা দিব লাগে। কিন্তু কিছুমান শিক্ষিত মানুহক আনি Training দিলে তেওঁ বিলাক দৰনাহ খোৱা মানুহহে হব আৰু তান পৰা জনসাধাৰণৰ সুবিধা নহব। এই দৰে টকা নষ্ট নকৰি যদি State Farm খুলি গাঁৱৰ জনসাধাৰণক নি শিক্ষা দিয়া হয় তেনেহলে কৃষিৰ উন্নতি হোৱাৰ সম্ভাৱনা আছে। মাটিত সাৰ দিয়াৰ কথা উঠিছে। মই বিশেষকৈ উজনী অসমৰ মাটিৰ কথা কব পাৰো যে তাত এবাৰ Ammonium Sulphate সাৰ দিলে ঘূৰি বছৰ গৰুৱে হাল টানিব নোৱাৰা হয়। কাৰণ মাটি বৰ টান হৈ যায়।

Mr. SPEAKER. মাননীয় সদস্য ষ্টেবীয়াৰু মই কৈছিলো যে Cut Motion ত উল্লেখ কৰা দুটা কথাৰ বাহিৰে তেখেতে বাহিৰা আন কথা কব নোৱাৰে। আন কথা কব খুজিলে Cut Motion ত উল্লেখ থাকিব লাগিব। তেখেতে Waste-age আৰু Statistics সম্বন্ধে কব পাৰে।

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: খেতিয়ক সকলে Ammonium Sulphate কিনিছে হয় কিন্তু তেওলোকৰ কোনো কামত অহা নাই। গতিকে তেওলোকৰ টকা পৰচা অনাহকতে খৰচ কৰা হৈছে মাথোন। এইদৰে দেখা যায় যে কৃষি বিভাগৰ যোগেদি আমাৰ ৰাইজৰ ভালেমান টকা অপব্যয় হৈছে।

দ্বিতীয়তে কিছুমান figure দেখুৱাই চৰকাৰে বাবে বাবে কৈছে যে আমাৰ bumper crop হৈছে। আমাৰ বহুত খাদ্য উৎপাদ হৈছে। এইবোৰ কেৱল অনুমানৰ ওপৰত কৰিছে। তেওঁলোকে figure উলিয়াইছে এইদৰে এঠাইত ধান হৈছে তাৰ পৰা একোছা আৰু আন এঠাইত পৰা দোকোছা এইদৰে লৈ আন আন হিচাপ এটা কৰি দিছে। এনেকুৱা Statistic নো কিয় হবলৈ পাইছে? পাঁচবছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাত কৃষিৰ উন্নতিৰ নিমিত্তে হাজাৰ হাজাৰ টকা খৰচ হৈছে। যদিহে দুলাখ টন মান বাচাই দেখুওৱা নহয় তেনেহলে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ মহা বিপদ। সেই কাৰণেই এই বিলাক figure দেখুওৱা হৈছে। Sir, কৃষি বিভাগৰ যোগেদি Statistics নলৈ যোব মনেৰে Statistics Department ৰ যোগেদি বেলেগে Statistics সংগ্ৰহ কৰিব লাগে। আৰু Farm বিলাকত প্ৰকৃততে কিমান লাভ লোকচান হৈছে তাৰ অনুসন্ধান ভাল Agronomistৰ হতুৱাই কৰাৰ লাগে। এই কেইটা কথা মই ডাঙি ধৰি মোৰ বক্তব্য শেষ কৰিলো।

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi : Reserve for Scheduled Castes] : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 1,71,21,800 under Grant No.20, Major head 40—Agriculture, at page 224 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,71,21,800 do stand reduced by Re.1.

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আগামের কৃষি সম্পর্কে আমি একটা সাধারণ আলোচনার অবতারণা করবার জন্য এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করছি। আগাম সমস্ত ভারতের শস্য ভাণ্ডার রাজ্যগুলির অন্যতম। কি সমতলভূমি কি পাহাড় এখানকার সর্বত্রই এক রকম না এক রকম ফসল ফলে যাহা রাজ্যের শুধু নয়, অন্যান্য অংশের ও চাহিদা মিটাতে পারে। কিন্তু শুধু মৌসুমী বায়ু এবং প্রকৃতির অনুকূল অবস্থার উপর নির্ভরশীল বলে এই রাজ্যের কৃষি ব্যবস্থাকে বারে বারে বিপর্যয়ের মুখে দাঁড়াতে হয় এবং খাদ্য শস্যের জন্য কেন্দ্রের কাছে বারে বারে হাত পাতিতে হয়। যদিও জমি ব্যবস্থা কৃষির সংগে ওতপ্রোত ভাবে জড়িত, এবং আমি সেদিন মাননীয় অর্থ মন্ত্রীর বাজেট বক্তৃতার সমালোচনার সময় কৃষির উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধির এবং জমি বিলির সরকারী নীতির কথা বলেছিলাম। আমি দেখিয়েছিলাম কি ভাবে সরকারী জমি বিলি নীতি কৃষককে অধিক উৎপাদনে উৎসাহ দিতে পারেনা। আজ আমি যে প্রসংগ টেনে আনতে চাইনা এবং আজকের তা আলোচ্য নয় শুধু একটা কথা বলতে চাই যে সরকারী কৃষি নীতিও কৃষক সাধারণকে উৎসাহ দিতে পারেনা।

প্রথমতঃ যেসমস্ত সরকারী উচ্চ পদস্থ কর্মচারী আছেন তাহাদের কৃষক সাধারণের অবস্থা এবং কৃষি ব্যবস্থা সম্পর্কে বাস্তব কোন জ্ঞান নাই। শুধু কলেজের কিছু শিক্ষা পেয়ে তারা কৃষি সম্পর্কে বিষেস্ত মনে করেন। এবং সরকারী সব বিভাগে যেকল্প বিলাসিতা বর্তমান কৃষিবিভাগে দেখি সেই অবস্থা। শিলং, গৌহাটী, শিলচর প্রভৃতি বড় বড় সহরেও এক একটা কৃষি অফিস আছে এবং সেই সব অফিসের সাহেবরা মাঝে মাঝে First Class Jeep নিয়ে মফস্বলে যান। তাদের 'অক্সফোর্ড' জুতা আর ইঞ্জিকরা স্কট কোট কৃষকদের মাঠের কিনার ঘেষতেও দেয় না, তারা মেইন রোড থেকে চলে আসেন—'হেডকোয়ার্টারে' 'ইলেকট্রিক' পাখার নিচে বসে file work এর রিপোর্ট লেখেন।

দ্বিতীয়তঃ N. E. S. Block বা C. D. Block যার মূল উদ্দেশ্য কৃষি উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধির দিকে দৃষ্টি দেওয়া—সেখানে কি হয়—গ্রাম সেবকদের সরকার কৃষি সম্পর্কে যাদের প্রাথমিক জ্ঞান আছে সেই সমস্ত গ্রাম্য যুবকদের (আমি লেখা পড়া জানা যুবকদের কথা বলছি) বেছে না এনে সহরের মধ্যবিত্ত যুবকদের বেশীর ভাগ সময় সরকার ট্রেনিং দেন। উপরওয়ালাদের অনুকরণে ঐ সমস্ত যুবকও 'স্কট' 'কুট' আর 'অক্সফোর্ড' জুতা নিয়ে গ্রামে যেতে চায় না।

মন্ত্রী। যখন সফরে যান তখন, দেখা যায় রাস্তার কিনারে কৃষকদের বিরোন ধানের মোটা গোছা আউশ ক্ষেতে সাইনবোর্ড দিয়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে 'জাপানী প্রথায় ধানচাষ' কৃষকরা আমোদ বোধ করে।

তৃতীয়তঃ—সরকারী বীজের উপরও কৃষকরা বিশ্বাস করতে পারে না। রাতাবাড়ী খানার বাজার ঘাটে কৃষি ইনস্পেক্টর, গ্রামসেবক পঞ্চায়েৎ অফিস প্রভৃতির নাকের উপর আদর্শ কৃষি ক্ষেত্রে গর্ত বৎসর পাট চা করা হয়েছিল। স্থানীয় পত্রিকা গুলোর মন্তব্য হলো পর্বতের মূষিক প্রসব। পাটের গাছ হয়েছিল ১১০ হাত লম্বা। আমার মন্তব্য নিশ্চোয়জন। আমি নিজে একজন কৃষক। সরকারী কৃষি বিভাগ থেকে সে বৎসর স্বর্ণলাইন নামে এক জাতীয় ধানের বীজ নিয়েছিলাম ক্ষেতে ফলাবার জন্য। নামটা শোভনীয় সন্দেহ নাই। শেষ পর্যন্ত গ্রামের অন্যান্য কৃষকদের হাস্যস্পন্দই হয়েছি। বীরোন ধান থেকে আরম্ভ করে সব জাতের ধান বোধ হয় হয়েছিল। পরে জানতে

পারলাম বীজধান সংগ্রহ করবার ভার যে অফিসারের উপর পড়েছিল তিনি কন্ট্রাক্টের মারফৎ বীজ কিনেন আর সেই কন্ট্রাক্ট বাজার থেকে বাজে দান কিনে সমজিয়ে দেয়। সরকারী কৃষি বিভাগের অসহায়তা আর অপদার্থতা আর একটা বিষয়ে বুঝা যায়। আলু কাছাড়ের একটা ভাল অথকরী ফসল। গত বৎসর একজাতীয় 'ভাইরাসের' আক্রমণে কাছাড়ের সম আলু ফসল নষ্ট হয়ে গেছে। মাত্র ফেরিনস নামে খুবসস্তা এক জাতীয় ঔষধ দিলে ওটা, কমে যায় কিন্তু অত বড় 'ষ্টাক' এবং N. E. S. C. D. Block থাকা সত্ত্বেও সরকার ১০।১২ বিঘা জমি কাছাড়ে রক্ষা করতে পেরেছেন বলে জোর করে দাবী করতে পারেন না। এই Department এর সমালোচনা করে আর কি হবে ?

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari—West):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as my Cut Motion was not moved, I may be allowed to speak a few words in this connection, on agrarian policy of the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, we are against time. We are to finish the business of the day by 4 P.M. If the hon. Member wants to raise that particular question he may do so when there is any demand for grants under "Revenue" which will be under discussion afterwards.

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,71,21,800, under Grant No. 20, Major head-40.—Agriculture, at page 224 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,71,21,800 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, in moving this cut motion I want to bring to the notice of the Government that we in Jowai Subdivision used the bone-meal as manure for our wet rice cultivation. This bone-meal was first introduced about 30 years ago. At that time when it was first introduced, people did not like to use it, but the Department took 4 to 5 years to induce the people to use it and when they used it, they found that it gives very good result. So in this way bone-meal comes to be used in large scale. Up till last year, cultivators used about 14 thousand maunds of bonemeal. Another fact in this connection is that those fields where this bone-meal was used, if discontinued for one year, it affects the yield of paddy. Sir, for the last 4 or 5 years Government have given subsidy up till last year but this year they are only giving 3,500 maunds as subsidy to the cultivators and the cultivators have found it very difficult to purchase bone-meal at a high rate of Rs. 20 per maund. The subsidised rate is only Rs.13/4 per maund. So cultivators on account of rise in the price of bone-meal could not purchase the required quantity

and as a result this year there will be a serious fall in the output of paddy. In the last 4 or 5 years, as I have said just now, Government is giving subsidy under Article 275 of the Constitution and from the Grow More Food Scheme. I do not understand whether, the Government have discontinued giving this subsidy under Article 275 and from the Grow More Food Scheme. If the grant is still there, I do not see any reason why Government is not given this subsidy this year. As I have said, Sir, this subsidy helps the people in the past because while improving the yield of paddy, it also checks the rise of price of this bonemeal. Sir, as I have just now said if this subsidy is still there, I do not see any reason why this subsidy is not given. I request that Government should see and find out who is responsible for non-procurement of subsidised bonemeal and to take action against him. With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): Sir, I want to bring to your notice that the time given to us was so short that it is simply impossible for us to place all our points before the House. We feel that we have been treated very unfairly, Sir. So I want to say that the time at our disposal should be increased because we feel that through the discussions on these Cut Motions only we will be able to place all facts and grievances of each constituency so that Government will take steps to remedy them.

Mr. SPEAKER: I appreciate the observations made by the hon. Member. As a matter of fact, nobody felt it more acutely than the Speaker. It has been my unpleasant task to have to ring the bell while hon. Members are on their feet, but that cannot be helped since we are racing against time, as indicated in the time-table. So far this time table is concerned, it was fixed by the office in consultation with leaders of various parties in the House. As such, the discussions have to take place within the time limit. I understand that it was also the practice before my time. But at any rate, it will be our effort and also the effort of the Government to see that in future all Members, whether they belong to the Opposition or to the Treasury Benches, get more time, not only for hon. Members to make their points but for the Government to reply to them. We have seen from our experience during the debate on the Budget that the Finance Minister took 3 hours and 45 minutes to reply to all the points raised by hon. Members in the Opposition and it is as it should be. I think we have to uphold

in this House the sovereignty of discussions. So if we put our heads together, both the Government and the Opposition, I do not see why we could not improve matters in future. This is a matter to be considered when the time comes.

***M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank the hon. Members in the Opposition for kindly bringing up certain points in the discussions here which are helpful. But as the time is very short, I would like to reply to them point by point, if time permits. In moving the Cut Motion, my Friend, Mr. Barbaruah said that the farm at Jorhat is not giving any profit and the Government should see that we get profit from the farm. Sir, I would like to tell him that this farm is mainly to serve the purpose of experiment and demonstration.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): How long the farm will remain experimental?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, it may remain for eternity. In this farm nucleus of improved varieties of sugar-cane is produced and it is found on experiment that these improved varieties can increase the yield and this yield is very high.

This farm distributed improved varieties of sugar-cane cutting to the cultivators. As this farm is run on purely experimental and demonstration purpose, we cannot expect profit, but there are other farms in the State, such as, seed farms and horticultural farms, which are running at a profit.

The next thing that has been said by my Friend is about distribution of potato seeds and other seeds distributed to the cultivators by the Department which do not germinate. So far as potato seed is concerned, my Friend is making a wrong statement because for the last two to three years no potato seed is distributed by the Department. Therefore, it seems he is in the hands of some cheats.

(Shri Khogendranath Barbaruah I am a man of the field and I know).

Sir, if my Friend was cheated in regard to potato seed, I have full sympathy for him as a fellow Member.

*Speech not corrected.

Then as regards paddy seeds, Government is experimenting difficulties about distribution for some time past. At present there are only 9 seed farms in the State apart from the two experimental stations at Akbarpur and Titabar. In order to improve the supply of seed position, it has already been stated, that Government has divided the whole State into 160 N.E.S. Blocks in the Second Plan with at least one seed farm in each of it and with that intention Government is going to put up 151 new seed farms in the Second Five-Year Plan period and each of the seed farm is expected to give 250 to 500 maunds of primary seeds. The same is expected to be multiplied through registered growers many times more. If these farms can be put into operation, I hope, difficulties of the seeds will be removed. This also disposes the point raised by my Friend, Shri Gopesh Namasudra.

Now about agricultural statistics. Sir, these figures are called agricultural rather by fallacy because these figures are collected, and furnished by the Statistical Department in close collaboration with the Revenue Department. So far as Agriculture Department is concerned, Government issued a press communique in this connection. The Agriculture Department is only responsible for the compilation of agricultural statistics. The area estimates, both of actual and forecast, are prepared by the Revenue staff and these are done at district level and checked up by the Deputy Commissioner and District Agricultural Officer. As regards actual yield of paddy, certain plots are selected by the Director of Agriculture and he gives the names of the plots, Dag number of Patta, etc., to the district officers, namely, Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer and they find out the figures of yield in those areas by their Mandals or Patwaries. Now, if the hon. Members feel that this is not wholly a scientific way of finding out statistics, we shall have to put our heads together and do something else. At present, this is the practice in the whole country. It seems there is some snag somewhere as on these figures we have to depend on human labour.

Lastly, Sir, Mr. Gopesh Namasudra, has made a complaint that no power pump has been given in the district of Cachar. When I went to Cachar during my last tour, I found that there is sufficient number of power pumps there and there would be no difficulty to meet the demand if anybody make requisition. My Friend did not mention any particular instance where there was difficulty in getting these power pumps. If he

would have given me information about any occasion of failure to get these pumps, I would have welcomed it. He made a reference about Nowgong. I can tell him that in Jamunamukh alone, 30 pumps are working and therefore there should be no room for such criticism. Of course, I do not say that in the Agricultural Department there is no room for improvement.

Now, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Larsingh Khyriem, made certain allegations about the failure of the department to provide subsidised bonemeal. During 1956-1957, 5,000 maunds of bonemeal were supplied to the Jowai Subdivision at subsidised rates and 2,500 maunds have been supplied in the Shillong subdivision. During the current year in anticipation of the voting of grants by the Assembly, 1,000 maunds of bonemeal had been supplied so far to cultivators of Jowai Subdivision and 540 maunds of mixed fertilizers equivalent to 1,620 maunds of bonemeal are now available to cultivators at Jowai Subdivision, which also has the same manurial action as bonemeal. 2,700 maunds of bonemeal is expected to be supplied within the next few days as the sanction has been received from Finance on 17th June, 1957. In addition, we are proposing to provide another 500 tons of bonemeal from Calcutta and U. P. for which arrangements are ready and now that Finance's sanction has been received, orders for it will be placed. Out of this quantity, 3,240 maunds will be made available to the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Bonemeal has been in short supply all over India and it is with very great difficulty that supplies are being arranged. We are now concentrating to switch over more and more to the use of phosphates. I hope, Sir, within another week another thousand maunds of bonemeal will be supplied. With these words, I hope my replies will satisfy all my Friends and, therefore, I request them to withdraw their Cut Motions.

SHRI LARSINGH KHYRIEM (Jowai Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has said that within a week 1,000 maunds of bonemeal will be supplied. May I point out that the cultivation season will be over by 25th or 26th instant? Unless bonemeal can be supplied immediately, there will be no meaning to supply the same after the cultivation season is over.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: (Minister, Agriculture): Sir, I will try my best to see that bonemeal is supplied as early as possible.

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

Mr. SPEAKER : I put the main Motion as a question. The question is that a sum of Rs.1,71,21,800, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958 for the administration of the head "40—Agriculture".

(The Motion was adopted)

Grant No. 21

"40 Agriculture—II.—Fisheries"

Mr. SPEAKER : We have two more Demands Nos. 21 and 50. I am afraid, we are to sit longer to finish these two Demands. Whether it is the pleasure of the House to sit beyond the scheduled time (4-30 P.M.)?

Shri JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : We don't like to sit beyond 4-30 P.M.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Sir, you cannot extend the time of the House. I refer to Assam Legislative Assembly Rule 120(2)—“not more than two days shall be taken up by the Assembly for the discussion of any one demand..... ”

Mr. SPEAKER : Maximum time fixed is two days for one demand; therefore, at the end of second day we can sit up to 4-30 P.M.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam that a sum of Rs.6,71,000, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head "40.—Agriculture.—II.—Fisheries"

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs. 6,71,000, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head "40, Agriculture, II. Fisheries" There are three Cut Motions No.2 and 3 are of general nature. It is better that these two Cut Motions can be taken up together.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA : [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.6,71,000, under Grant No.21, Major head 40.—Agriculture—II—Fisheries at page 308 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of whole grant of Rs.6,71,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

By The Cut Motion I want to discuss the condition of fisheries in the State.

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, কৃষকদের সামনে কোন সত্যিকারের গঠনমূলক কৃষি পরিকল্পনা না থাকায় যেমন আসামের কৃষি ব্যবস্থা একটা দারুণ বিপর্যয়ের মুখে এসে দাঁড়িয়েছে, সেই রকম এই রাজ্যের মৎস্য চাষের অবস্থা আজ একটা সংকটপূর্ণ অবস্থার সম্মুখীন। আসাম রাজ্যের জনসাধারণের বিশেষ করে রাজ্যের সমতলবাসীর মাছ দৈনন্দিন খাদ্যের মধ্যে অত্যন্ত প্রয়োজনীয় খাদ্য। দেশ বিভাগের পূর্বে সিলেট জিলা এবং সামগ্রিক ভাবে বর্তমান পূর্ব পাকিস্তান ছিল আমাদের মাছ যোগানের বড় ক্ষেত্র। দেশ বিভাগে আজ সে অবস্থাও বিপর্যস্ত। কিন্তু দীর্ঘ ১০ বৎসরের কংগ্রেসী রাজত্বেও সেদিকটাকে উন্নত করার কোন চেষ্টা বা কার্যকরী কোন পরিকল্পনা সরকার গ্রহণ করেন নাই। আমাদের কাছাড় জিলায় শোন বিল এবং রাতাবিল নামে দুইটা বিল আছে। স্বাভাবিক মৎস্য চাষের ক্ষেত্র হিসাবে বোধ হয় আসামে ঐ রকম খুব কমই আছে। কিন্তু মৎস্য চাষের কোন পরিকল্পনা না থাকায় আজ সেই দুইটা বিল মৎস্য বিলীন হয়ে গেছে। অথচ কাছাড় জিলা বা আসাম উপত্যকার একটা বড় অংশকে ঐ দুইটা বিল মাছ যোগান দেবার ক্ষমতা রাখে।

প্রথমতঃ শোন বিলকে চাষের উপযোগী করার জন্য সরকার শিংলা নদীর দু'পার দিয়ে সমান্তরাল বাঁধ (Embankment) দিবার পরিকল্পনা নিয়েছেন। এতে শিংলা নদী বাহিত সমস্ত পলিমাটি নদীর পার উপচিয়ে নাগিয়ে সোজাসোজী শোন বিলে এসে পড়বে এবং ৫০ বছরে নাকি শোন বিল ভরাট হয়ে যাবে। চাষের জমির আয়তন বাড়ুক এটা সকলেই চায়। কিন্তু আর একটা দিকও আছে। যদি আমরা মৎস্য চাষের এই স্বাভাবিক ক্ষেত্রটাকে এভাবে নষ্ট করি তাহলে কৃষি ফসল দিয়ে যদি বৎসরে আমরা ঐ গলাকা থেকে এক কোটি টাকা আয় করি তবে বোধ হয় দু'কোটিরও অধিক টাকা মাছ কিনবার জন্য পাকিস্তানকে দিতে হবে। আমাদের লাভ কোন দিকে? অথচ লংগাই ও শিংলা ভেলীতে চা বাগান ও ফরেষ্ট রিজার্ভে আবাদযোগ্য যত জমি আছে, তা আবাদ করলে শোন বিল এলাকা থেকে বেশী পরিমাণ জমি এখনই পাওয়া সম্ভব। সরকার কিন্তু সেদিকে মোটেই দৃষ্টি দিচ্ছে না।

দ্বিতীয়তঃ রাতা বিল—সরকারের ভুল পরিকল্পনার জন্য মৎস্য চাষের ক্ষেত্র হিসাবে নষ্ট হয়ে গেছে। কচুয়া নদী দিয়ে কুশিয়ারার মাছ সোজাসোজী রাতা বিল এবং শোন বিলে চলে আসতো। এই কুশিয়ারা নদী পূর্ববঙ্গের মধ্য দিয়া গেছে এবং বড় নদী বলে মাছ অতি সহজেই উজান এসে এই সমস্ত বিলে সারা বর্ষা থাকতো। কচুয়া নদী বন্ধ করে দেওয়ায় মাছের প্রবেশ দ্বারও বন্ধ হয়ে গেছে। আশা করি, সরকার এদিকে দৃষ্টি দিবেন এবং আসামের এই দু'টা স্বাভাবিক মৎস্য চাষের ক্ষেত্রকে রক্ষা করার ব্যবস্থা করবেন।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : Sir, I want to know whether this Sonbil Fishery is auctioned by the Sub-Divisional Officer or it is a Zamindari.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North) :
It is a Zamindari.

Mr. SPEAKER : You will have a chance to reply.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: (Amguri)
Sir, এই motion সম্বন্ধে মই কব খুজিছোঁ যে অসমত মাছৰ উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি কৰিবলৈ হলে প্ৰথমতে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ শিহুবিলাক মৰাৰ এটা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে, কাৰণ এই শিহুবিলাকে মাছ মাৰি অন্ত কৰে। দ্বিতীয়তে, চতুৰ পোন্ধৰ দিনৰে পৰা আহাৰৰ পহিলা তাৰিখলৈকে মাছৰ উজান পৰে। গতিকে সেই সময়ত মাছ মৰা বন্ধ কৰিবৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব পাৰিলে ভাল মানুহৰ মাজত সংগঠন কৰি হলেও ইয়াৰ এটা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। কিয়নো সেই সময়ত মাছৰ পোৱালী দিবৰ সময় হয়। মোৰ মতে চতুৰ পোন্ধৰ দিনৰ পৰা আহাৰৰ পহিলা তাৰিখলৈকে মাছ মৰা বন্ধ ৰাখিব লাগে। (*A voice*—একেবাৰে নাখালেই ভাল)। এই কাল ছোৱা চৰকাৰে মাংস, গাখীৰ, কনীৰ যোগান ধৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

Fishery Act মতে তিনি ইঞ্চিতকৈ বেচি পাহৰ জাল পেলাব নোৱাৰে আৰু সৰু সৰু মাছ ধৰা আইন মতে নিষেধ। কিন্তু কংগ্ৰেছী সকলেই আইন ভাঙে তাৰ ভিতৰত আমাৰ এম, এল, এণ্ড আছে। আমাৰ সেই অঞ্চলত ছিল বিলত, মাছৰ মহল খুলিছে। তাতপ খৰী ক'অপাৰেটীভ আছে সেই ক'অপাৰেটীভৰ ভিতৰত আইনা নদীৰ তাতৰা বটীয়া পৰ্য্যন্ত ধৰিছে আৰু সেই কাৰণে ৰাইজে মিটিং পাতি তাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে প্ৰস্তাৱ লব লগীয়া হৈছেতো সেই কংগ্ৰেছী সকলে কয়—“কংগ্ৰুছ গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট থাকে মানে যিমানেই আপত্তি নকৰা একো ফল নহব”। (*laughter*) এইদৰে যি সকলে আইন কৰিছে তেখেত সকলেই যদি আইন ভাঙে তেনেহলে দেশৰ উন্নতি কেনেকৈ হব? Sir, সেই বিলত পোৱালী পৰ্য্যন্ত ধৰা হৈছে।

Fishery ত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কিমান লাভ বা লোকছান হৈছে তাকো চোৱা দৰকাৰ। যদিহে ৫১১০ বছৰৰ ভিতৰতো অৰ্থাৎ এটা নিদিষ্ট সময়ৰ ভিতৰতো লাভ নহয় তেনেহলে fishery ত ইমান টকা খৰচ কৰা উচিত নহয়। Sir, শিৱসাগৰৰ জয়সাগৰত মীন মহল খুলিছে। কিন্তু বিচাৰিলে তাত মাছৰ পোৱালী দিব নোৱাৰে—জাল পেলালে ভেকলীহে উঠে (*Laughter*)। ইতিমধ্যে তাত ডেৰলাখৰো অধিক টকা খৰচ হৈছে। এই ডেৰলাখ টকা আন ঠাইত খৰচ কৰা হলে দেশৰ বহুতো কল্যাণ হলহেতেন।

কোনো কোনো সময়ত মানুহে যিমান মাছ ধৰে সিমান বিক্ৰি কৰিব নাৱাৰে। গতিকে ভালেমান নষ্ট হৈ যায়। সেই কাৰণে যি মাছ থাকি যায় তাক preserve কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। ইয়াকে কৰিব পাৰিলে আমাৰ বহুতো উপকাৰ হব। মাছ এটা অতি প্ৰয়োজনীয় খাদ্য। সেই কাৰণে মাছৰ উৎপন্ন বৃদ্ধিৰ নিমিত্তে যথোচিত ব্যৱস্থা লব লাগে। ইয়াকে কৈ মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰনি মাৰিলো।

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj North) :
Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.6,71,000 under Grant No.21, Major head-40-Agriculture-II, Fisheries, at page 308 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 6,71,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

By this Cut Motion I want to raise general discussion.

Sir, we have seen that fish is a very important item of our food for the preservation of our life, just like that of rice. I may say that next to rice we must give importance to fish. It is known to this House that almost the whole population of this

State consume fish. The protein value from fish is also very high. Unfortunately we have seen, during the First Five-Year Plan, no spectacular thing was done for the culture and improvement of the fishery by the Department concerned. We have seen in the neighbowaing State where there is searcity of fish they are trying to improve the position by introducing deep sea fishing and such other things. In our State, we have seen supply of fish has been dwindling every day with the result that it is going beyond the reach of common people. We have seen, Sir, the price of vegetable is also going very high in different areas of the State and as such fish is considered to be the cheapest food for the poor people, but due to its scarcity, the price is going up and it is going beyond the reach of the common people. Sir, we have seen the hon. Ministers in-charge has been given only a sum of rupees six lakhs, seventy-one thousand. I think with this sum the poor Minister cannot do any useful work. The amount allotted is nothing when we consider that a lot of thing has to be done in this matter. If we want to give any impetus, any help to the people to improve the culture of fish, I must mention that the amount given is most insufficient. There are two ways to improve fisheries. One is open sea and open river and big Beels from where the fish can be grown and protected. The other way is to rear fishes in reserve tank. The seedlings of fishes can be preserved by the Fishery Department and they may be made available to the people at cheaper rate so that the people may get encouragement to rear fish in tanks also. Now a good scheme like that of Son Beel area as mentioned by my Friend, Shri Namasudra, cannot be taken up by money as allotted in the Budget. The Minister in charge wanted to know who was the proprietor of the Beel. For his information, I can tell him that some of the Zamindars and the Court of Wards are the proprietors. Whatever that may be, if the Government want to take up the project, they can do it. If they want to leave at the hand of the private parties, they can do it by giving impetus to them by way of providing seedlings, technical help and other facilities necessary to improve the culture of fish. For these long long years, I have been requesting the Government to take up the culture of fish in the Natya Khal which is very close to Karimganj town itself. Two ends of this Khal is blocked one by putting a Bund on one side and the other by sands accumulated on the mouth of it. That would be a very profitable thing for the Government. On one side it will improve the sanitation of the town and on the other side there would be fish and the people would get fish very cheap. But unfortunately

we have seen that Government have done very little in this direction, and the money allotted is negligible considering the schemes.

Secondly, we have seen that Government has started schemes during the last two or three years by which they want to excavate all big and historical tanks for the purpose of starting fishery. But unfortunately I must inform the House that all these works are being started towards the fag end of the year when most of the works cannot be completed and thus money is being wasted. We have seen what happened at Gauhati so far as that big tank is concerned. During the year the work could not be completed and so steps should be taken by the young Minister to see that more fund is made available without which nothing can be done. What is to be done should be done in right earnest before rains set in. With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.6,71,000 under Grant No.21, Major head-40-Agriculture-II.-Fisheries, at page 308 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,71,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Sir, this Department was started only in 1950. I am really thankful to the Members that they have realised that the money at the disposal of the Department is not so much and therefore we cannot think of schemes as has been taken up in Bengal. There they have a deep sea fishing scheme as they have got a sea and a seaport and the consequent geographical facilities. We have no such facilities whatsoever. In any case, in the First Five-Year Plan period, our work was mostly confined to fish farming, seed collecting and distribution scheme and issue of loans to private enterprisers. Government thought that these steps would help in increasing supply of fish; they thought that through seed collecting and distributing schemes might they make available more fingerlings to the people so that they could take to fish farming increasingly. The idea was that through those schemes the private individuals would be given more facilities so that fish supply of the State could be improved through private sources and for that a sum amounting to Rs.1,67,000 was issued as loans to private individual during the first plan period. For the Second Five-Year Plan we have taken some more schemes which have been approved by the Government of India and we will try to implement the same and I hope fish supply will increase further.

My Friends, Shri Namasudra and Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruwah, made some criticism about the management of Government fisheries. But I respectfully point out that they have made a mistake. The fisheries they referred to are managed by the Revenue Department and not by the Fishery Department. Infact most of the fisheries in the State are under the Revenue Department and they are auctioned every year. People take such fisheries on auction whether there is sufficient fish or not. In some cases villagers do not pay anything to the lessees and in some cases payment are regularly made. Anyway, these are quite different matters and they do not concern the present demand and today's debate and Cut Motion.

My Friend, Shri Namasudra, referred to Son Beel ; this is a private Zamindari fishery. That is not within the scope of this Department. Unless that Beel is acquired, nothing can be done. Of course my colleague, the Revenue Minister, has heard the speech of the hon. Member and the proper course will be for him to raise this matter at the time of consideration of the Revenue Grant. We operate reclamation schemes only when lands are made over to us by the Revenue Department after acquiring or requisitioning the same. First, the land must be declared as Khas and a fishery, and then made over to the Fishery Department whereupon we take them for management and development. Forest Department has got some fisheries also. Some of these fisheries are also taken up similarly for the purpose of development by my Department. So, Sir, our hands are tight. I quite appreciate the suggestions given by Shri Namasudra as well as by Shri Das. If they move the Revenue Minister either inside or outside the House, I hope he will consider their demand.

As regards the suggestion given by Shri Ranendra Mohan Das that we should take up the Natya Khal, I shall examine this question.

As regards his complaint that works are being started very late in the year, that is, after the starting of rains, I should like to assure him that this will be kept in mind for future guidance. However, I may inform him that the work of Digli Pukur is already complete and in other cases these are nearing completion.

As regards the scheme of renovation of Municipal tanks, I should say that steps are being taken to complete the same. Survey works are not taken up as late as my Friend thinks.

With these assurances, Sir, I hope my Friends will withdraw their Cut Motions.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is:

That a sum of Rs. 6,71,000 (Rupees six lakhs seventy-one thousand) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head "40—Agriculture—II—Fisheries".

(The Motion was adopted)

GRANT No.50

"71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: (Minister, Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam that a sum of Rs.7,94,900 (Rupees seven lakhs, ninety-four thousand and nine hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958 for the administration of the head—"71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.7,94,900 (Rupees seven lakhs, ninety-four thousand and nine hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958 for the administration of the head—"71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research".

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.7,94,900 under Grant No.50, Major head—71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research, at page 556 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,94,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

By this Cut Motion I want to raise a general discussion on this demand.

The head of the Grant shows that it is a very grand thing: Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research! When in the country population is increasing and food problem is also rising, everybody is naturally eager to know as to what has been the progress in the schemes that our Government has embarked upon for the improvement and

research in agriculture. We find under this Grant several heads. One is jute seed collection farm scheme, then mechanised cultivation scheme, then development scheme for scarcity areas, then fishery development, then forest fisheries and so on and so forth.

But I am afraid, Sir, there are only headings and not much of work. For example, there is one heading here, "Development schemes for mechanised cultivation". At least so far as this grant is concerned, there is nothing in this respect. As the Minister said a little while ago, his Department is really a peculiar Department. He is in charge of some fisheries and he is asked to develop them, but most of the fisheries in this State come under the head "Revenue". He is in charge of agriculture, but he has no say in the matter of agrarian reforms. He is to improve agriculture and make arrangements to give more food to the people, but he has no say what should be the land policy of the Government. I can appreciate his difficulty and do sympathise with his present position, because a young and energetic man like him does not surely want a sinecure job. So far as the subjects under different heads are concerned, a Head Assistant is sufficient to deal with them. A Minister is not at all necessary. If Government propose really to do something, then Government should make some arrangement for it. For example, if Subankhata and Kaki be the symbols and samples of our mechanised cultivation and grow-more-food campaign, then God save us from this sort of things ! Subankhata was abandoned after incurring not a small expenditure and Kaki stands there as a standing shame to this Government. Not only no food was produced there, but Hojai and Lanka, the granaries of Assam, are suffering from drought because with a view to show some progress, deforestation was done rapidly. The result is no water ! There was no timely experiment made whether deep tube-wells would be successful at Kaki. The first thing that was necessary to see was whether water would be available for that area. But without ascertaining that, trees were cut. After so much money being spent for tractors, caterpillars and so on and so forth, after so many Ministers had paid so many visits and drew their allowances, what do we find ? No paddy and also no cultivator ! The lands were settled not only with non-cultivating men but also with non-cultivating woman. That woman may be even a Brahmin woman. Not only that she does not cultivate, even her husband does not. She may even be a Headmistress, a Minister or Deputy Minister ! So, in this way we find that this scheme has failed. I only sympathise with the Minister-in-charge and want very much to know whether there has been any progress in the meantime after he has taken charge.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.7,94,900 under Grant No.50, Major head—71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research, at page 556 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,94,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, for his kind words of sympathy for me. But, Sir, all his tears are those of a crocodile as these are far from sincere. However, I offer my thanks for the crocodile tear-*cum*-sympathy of my Friend for me with whom I had quite a good encounter in earlier years in this very House. There was no need for shedding such crocodile tears. Anyway, Sir, I may point out to him that the Cut Motion was in wrong context and my Friend has opened a wrong page. For the first time he is trapped. He complains that page 556 is practically blank. It mentions of schemes but without any corresponding provisions. But the fact is that most of the schemes about which he spoke are not at page 556; they are under "40—Agriculture", at pages 551 to 571 and, therefore, Sir, he has really missed the bus. His Cut Motion was under a wrong head for discussing these schemes which he cannot do and therefore, I cannot but sympathise with my Friend.

Nevertheless, Sir, I cannot tell him everything as the time at my disposal is very short. I have heard a lot of criticisms about Kaki and I can assure him that I will personally enquire about them. It is neither the policy of Government nor can it be the policy of my Department to encourage people with land to have land in Kaki or in any such reclaimed area and I can assure him that I will enquire into it. Of course I cannot pass any orders about cancellation as the allotment was made in this case by the Revenue Department, but I shall pass on the results of my enquire to the Revenue Department. I can say, Sir, that the Government do not intend to encourage absentee landlordism or giving land to people who have sufficient land and if any specific cases are brought to our notice, Government will certainly enquire about them. I can assure the hon. Member that we will leave no stone unturned far less cancelling such allotments for regularising such matters. But, Sir, I have been hearing this complaint on the floor of this House for the last two years. The other day when such a complaint about Kaki was

made, several Members on this side, including a lady Member, Mrs. Sen Gupta, threw a challenge and there was no Knight to accept the challenge. That was most unfortunate. Sir, I am not going to make any insinuation. I want hard facts. If the hon. Member wants to accept the challenge thrown out by Mrs. Sen Gupta, let him give the names.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): I shall give the names.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Thanks, I shall see to it. With regard to the water scarcity in Kaki, we decided to dig three deep tube-wells; two have already been dug and one did not prove successful. With these tube-wells, we hope to relieve water scarcity to a great extent.

With these few words, I request my hon. Friend to kindly to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. Member withdrawing?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I have no objection to withdraw.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.7,94,900 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958 for the administration of the head "71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research".

(The Motion was adopted)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 1-30 P.M. on Friday, the 21st June, 1957.

Shillong:

The 4th January, 1958.

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R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,

Legislative Asssmbly, Assam.

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3. Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Calcutta.
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12. The Proprietor, 'Graduates Union,' Gauhati.
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15. The Director, Benares Corporation, University Road, P.O. Lanka.
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