

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Monday, the 24th June, 1957.

P R E S E N T

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

(Starred Question No.21 standing in the name of Shri Hareswar Goswami was not put and answered as the Questioner was absent).

**Construction of Road connecting Rampur via Barnibari
from the point joining Kaithalkuchi-Palla Road
at Chamata**

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

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

- (a) Whether a representation on behalf of the people of Dharmapur Mauza, Kshetri-Dharmapur Mauza and 4 Barkshetri Mauzas was lately made to take up the construction of a road connecting Rampur via Barnibari from the point joining Kaithalkuchi-Palla Road at Chamata ?
- (b) Whether the Minister-in-charge is aware that the people of the above mentioned Mauzas offered their whole-hearted co-operation voluntarily, and themselves constructed a portion of the said road at their own cost with their own labour in the year 1955 ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the people are insisting that the construction of the road in question should be taken up by the Public Works Department ?
- (d) If so, what decision has been taken by the Government to take up the construction of the road ?

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

*22. (a) & (d)—Yes in July 1956. This proposal was placed before the meeting of the Assam Roads Communication Board held in December, 1956 but was not selected by them. This will again be placed before the next meeting of the Assam Roads Communication Board for their consideration.

(b) & (c)—Yes, as revealed in the representation mentioned above.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : এই বাস্তাৱ সম্বন্ধে ইংৰাজী ৩০।১২।৫৫ তাৰিখে বাইজৰ তৰফৰ পৰা চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত এখন চপোৱা আবেদন পত্ৰ দাখিল কৰাৰ কথা মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে জানেনে ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Yes, the reply is there.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA : তাৰ পিচত ১।১১।৫৬ ইং তাৰিখে সেই বাস্তাৱ সম্বন্ধেই বাইজৰ তৰফৰ পৰা ১৫০ জন মানুহে চাহি কৰি দিয়া গোছাৰীৰ বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে জানে নে ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The answer is already there.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Yes, in July, 1956.

Shri TAURN SEN DEKA : তেনেহলে মই আশা কৰিব পাৰোনে যে এই বাস্তাৱ কাম সোনকালে হাতত লোৱা হব ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : It entirely depends on the decision of the Assam Roads Communication Board.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA : মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে স্বীকাৰ কৰেণে যে এই বাস্তাৱটো বৰ দৰ্কাৰী ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. That is a question of opinion.

Iron Materials for North Lakhimpur

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) asked :

*23. Will the Minister of Supply be pleased to state—
(a) Whether Government is aware that no iron materials such as iron rods, flat iron, etc., is available at North Lakhimpur for the last one year and the people are experiencing great difficulty in building works ?

(b) Whether there is any dealer in North Lakhimpur holding any dealer's licence for dealing in iron materials excluding C. I. Sheets ?

(c) If there is any permit-holder whether they are receiving any quota from the State for selling to the people of the Subdivision ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Supply) replied :

*23. (a)—Yes. This is not only at North Lakhimpur but in many other Subdivisions of the State as well.

(b)—There is a Registered Stock Holder in Iron Materials including C. I. Sheets at North Lakhimpur.

(c)—There is no such permit-holder. The registered stock holder in iron materials who receives the quota from the State, is to sell all categories of materials to the consumers on permits issued by the Subdivisional Officer and the Director of Consumer Goods.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) : এই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে জানেনে যে উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰত বাইজে আজি এবছৰ ধৰি Iron Rod আদি পোৱা নাই ? সেই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে কিবা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছেনে ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMA : অকল উত্তৰ-লক্ষীমপুৰতেই নহয় অসমৰ প্ৰায় সকলো ঠাইতে Iron Rod আৰু Flat Iron এবছৰ নালাগে কেইবাবছৰতো সময়মতে পোৱা নাই। তাৰ কাৰণ হ'ল, আমাৰ controlled commodity ৰ যি বিলাক suppliers আছে তেওঁলোকৰ লগত যোগান দিয়া বিষয়ে এটা গোলমাল চলি আছে। supplier সকলে কয় যে কলিকতা আদি বিভিন্ন ঠাইৰ পৰা বেল জাহাজ আদিৰে অসমৰ বিভিন্ন ষ্টেচনলৈ এই সামগ্ৰী বিলাকৰ পৰিবহনৰ কাৰণে যি অতিবিক্ৰম খৰচ হয় সেইখিনি আমি তেওঁলোকক দিব লাগে। আনহাতে ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ নিৰ্দেশমতে গোটেই ভাৰতৰ বিভিন্ন ষ্টেচনত এই সামগ্ৰী বিলাকৰ মূল্যৰ সমীকৰণ কৰিব লাগে।

সদস্য সকলৰ জ্ঞাতাৰ্থে মই কওঁ যে অলপতে আমাৰ যোগান বিভাগৰ চেক্ৰেটাৰীয়ে গৈ কেন্দ্ৰৰ Supply Controller ক লগ ধৰি আলোচনা কৰি আহিছে।

মই আশা কৰোঁ যে, অহা বছৰৰ ভিতৰতে এই সমস্যাটোৰ এটা সমাধানত উপনীত হ'ব পাৰিম। তেতিয়া হয়তো এনে আহুকাল নাথাকিব।

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : May I know the name of the dealer ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : বৰ্তমান মোৰ হাতত সেই নামবোৰ নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER : When the supplementary question was put in English the Minister should have replied in English.

Permanent Bridge over the river Dikrong

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) asked :

*24. Will the Minister of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the permanent bridge over Dikrong will be completed within the next winter ?

(b) Whether the work is held up for want of materials or for inability of the contractor company to expedite completion ?

(c) Whether the Government propose to open the diversion road near the bridge by establishing a ferry there which will be more convenient than the present one early in the next winter ?

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

*24.(a)—It is not likely to be completed within the next winter season.

(b)—No. The Dikrong Bridge has 7 spans of 89 ft. each on well foundations and 2 end spans of 52 ft.

All the 8 wells have been sunk to the designed level. But well No. 1 showed some untoward behaviour during sinking, (that is, the well tilted during sinking). This work being financed with 50 per cent grant from India, the matter was referred to the Government of India for their decision as to the final level to which the wells will have to be sunk. Case of well No.1 has been decided by Government of India and the well is being further sunk accordingly. Cases of other wells are still under consideration of the Government of India.

In view of further well sinking being necessary and the entire superstructure work yet to be done, it is unlikely that the bridge will be completed during the next winter.

(c)—The diversion road with the minor bridges and culverts is not likely to be completed next winter.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

**Number of Guns seized by the Government in
Patharkandi Police Station**

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi [Reserved
for Scheduled Castes] asked :

67. Will the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Total number of guns seized by the Government in Patharkandi Police Station and Ratabari Police Station separately during communal tension, 1950 ?

(b) How many have been released to the original owner later ?

(c) If not, where are those guns ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) replied :

67. (a) — (i) Patharkandi Police Station—52 guns.

(ii) Ratabari Police Station—24 guns.

(b)—16 (sixteen) guns have been released to the owners viz ; 8 in Patharkandi Police Station and 8 in Rataqari Police Station.

(c)—The remaining guns are lying in the Silchar Court Malkhana for disposal. Some of the owners of these guns have submitted applications for return of their guns, which are still under enquiry.

Inspection of Secondary Schools in Assam

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY : (Nalbari-East) asked :

68. Will the Minister-in-charge of education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware that regular inspections of secondary schools are not made now-a-days by the inspecting staff of the education Department ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Inspecting Officer now-a-days gives a flying visit to the Schools ?

- (c) Whether Government are aware that most of the Middle Schools are going without inspection for a long time ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that Inspecting Officers are now-a-days entrusted with functions other than inspection—such as attending committee meetings, attending on Minister, etc. ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education) : replied :

68. (a)—Government are not aware of it.

(b)—It is not a fact.

(c)—Government are not aware of it.

(d)—Inspecting Officers are required to attend to all duties in connection with office management. They are not required to attend on Ministers except in course of duty.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : With regard to (a) will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry into the fact that these schools are going on without inspection for a long time ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : No enquiry appears to be necessary.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West) : In answer to (d) it is stated, "Inspecting Officers are required to attend to all duties in connection with office management. They are not required to attend on Ministers except in course of duty." May I know, whether the Government has issued any instruction that the Inspecting Officers are not required to receive the Ministers and Director of Public Instruction with students of schools ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : No. There is no necessity of such instruction.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Has no instruction been issued to the contrary, i.e., the pupils should not be taken to receive the Ministers ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : No such instruction is necessary.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): I think, it is necessary to issue such orders.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think it appears to be necessary.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): With regard to 68 (a), will Government please ascertain the fact whether the inspections of secondary high schools are nadequate ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education): Inspections may be inadequate in some places.

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY [North Lakhimpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: চৰকাৰী সাহায্য প্ৰাপ্ত মাইনৰ স্কুল নোৰ ডেপুটি ইন্‌চপেক্টৰে পৰিদৰ্শন কৰিব পাৰেনে ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: কৰিব পাৰে।

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY: যদি কৰিব পাৰে, তেন্তে তেওঁলোকে যি ঠাইত পৰিদৰ্শন নকৰে তাত পৰিদৰ্শন কৰিবৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে নিৰ্দেশ দিবনে ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: ডেপুটি ইন্‌চপেক্টৰে আটাইবোৰ স্কুল পৰিদৰ্শন কৰিব নোৱাৰে। ইয়াৰ বাবে চাব্‌ইন্‌চপেক্টৰ আছে।

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): আমাদেৰ সৰকাৰ জানেন কি গেলবাৰ যখন মুখ্য-মন্ত্ৰী শিলচৰ গিয়েছিলেন এবং Director of Public Instruction গিয়েছিলেন তখন হাইস্কুল এবং এম, ই, স্কুলেৰ ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীদেৰকে নেওৱা হয়েছিল অভিনন্দন জানাতে।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: I have got no such information. আমি তেনেকুৱা কোনো খবৰ পোৱা নাই।

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA: But as far as my information goes.....

(Loud Laughter)

Scheme for Educating the Tea Garden Labourer's Children

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked:

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

(a) Whether any scheme has been taken for education of the tea garden labourers' children?

(b) If so, when it will be implemented?

(c) If not, why?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

69. (a)—Planned education of the children of tea garden labour has not yet been undertaken.

(b) & (c).—The suggestion of the hon. Member will receive the consideration of Government.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, চাহবাগানৰ স্কুলবোৰ কেতিয়া চৰকাৰৰ হাতলৈ আনিব জানিব পাৰোনে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : চাহবাগানৰ স্কুল বোৰ কিমান সোনকালে চৰকাৰৰ হাতলৈ আনিব পৰা হ'ব সেইটো এতিয়া কোৱা টান।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA : সেই স্কুলবোৰ চৰকাৰৰ হাতলৈ আনিব নোৱাৰাটো দুখৰ কথা হোৱা নাইনে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : দুখৰ কথা হৈছে। কিন্তু এটা ডাঙৰ কথা হৈছে যে চাহবাগিচাৰ স্কুলৰ শিক্ষকসকলে কোম্পানীৰ পৰা যি দৰমহা পায় তাৰ লগত আমাৰ চৰকাৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষকৰ দৰমহাৰ বহুত তাৰতম্য আছে। সেই কাৰণে সেই স্কুলবোৰ চৰকাৰে ললে কিমান দৰমহা দিব লাগিব সেইটো স্থিৰ হোৱা নাই। যদি তেওঁলোকৰ বৰ্ত্তমান দৰমহা দিব লাগে তেনেহলে চৰকাৰৰ অসুবিধা হ'ব আৰু দৰমহা কমাৰ খুজিলে ট্ৰেড্ ইউনিয়নে আপত্তি কৰে। বৰ্ত্তমান চৰকাৰৰ ইমান টকা নাই সেই স্কুলবোৰ আগৰ দৰমহাত ৰাখিবৰ বাবে। কিছুদিনৰ আগতে এখন ত্ৰিদলীয় সম্মিলন হৈছিল চৰকাৰ, বনুৱা আৰু ট্ৰেড্ ইউনিয়ন প্ৰতিনিধিৰ মাজত। কিন্তু এই কথাৰ একো মীমাংসা নহ'ল। কিন্তু এইটো ঠিক যে গোটেই দেশৰ প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা আচনি চৰকাৰে হাতত লৈছে। এই কথা আৰু বেচি দিন পলম নহ'ব।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati) : মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে কলে যে যদি চাহবাগিচাৰ স্কুলবোৰ চৰকাৰে লয় তেনেহলে চাহবাগিচাৰ শিক্ষকৰ দৰমহা আৰু চৰকাৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষকৰ দৰমহাৰ বৈষম্য ঘটিব, মই জানিব পাৰোনে চাহবাগিচাৰ শিক্ষক আৰু চৰকাৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষকৰ দৰমহাৰ ভিতৰত কোনটো বেচি ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) : চাহবাগিচাৰ শিক্ষকৰ দৰ্শনা বেচি।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : চাহবাগিচাৰ স্কুলবোৰ চৰকাৰে লোৱাটো immediately হবনে নাই, longterm Policy হিচাবেহে নব ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY : যিমান সোনকালে পৰা হয় সিমান সোনকালে লোৱা হব।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : চৰকাৰে, চৰকাৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ বেতন বাগিচাৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ পৰ্যায়লৈ আনিব নিবিচাৰেণে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : টকাৰ অভাব।

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : চাহ বাগানৰ স্কুলবিলাকৰ পৰিদৰ্শনৰ আৰু পৰীক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে কৰাবনে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : হয়, এই সম্পৰ্কে চৰকাৰে, কেইজন মান পৰিদৰ্শক ইতিমধ্যেই নিয়োগ কৰিছে আৰু কেইজন মান সোনকালে নিয়োগ কৰিব আৰু তেতিয়াহলে স্কুলবিলাকৰ পৰিদৰ্শন কৰা কাম কৰে বান্ধি বুলি আশা কৰা যায়।

Violation of the Provisions of payment of Wages Act

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

70. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

(a) Why the State Transport workers are often fined violating the provisions of payment of wages Act ?

(b) Where the realised fines are kept ?

(c) Whether the fine money is utilised for the welfare of the workers of State Transport ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) replied :

70. (a)—The State Transport workers are not fined in violation of the provisions of payment of wages Act.

(b)—The fines realised from other sources are credited to the consolidated fund of Government.

(c)—All welfare work to the employees is financed from the consolidated fund of the state.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister had informed me before the House sat that a correction was necessary in regard to 70 (b). It should be "Fines realised from other sources."

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): What are those other sources ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport): I want notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member from Gauhati will please bear me out that this is an unstarred question.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): What is the maximum limit of fines realised from the workers ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : I want notice.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister require notice to answer this question about (c) ? What are those specific welfare works done by Government ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : No definition is necessary—what is mostly welfare work. If the hon. Member refers to the Chamber's Dictionary he will get the meaning.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : In Chamber's Dictionary I find 'all' means 'everything'. In everything what is indicated whether any help while they are suffering, whether any help while they meet with any accidents, whether any help when their families are in distress ? What does everything means ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : I refer the hon. Member to the rules of the Transport Department, in this respect.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Has the Minister placed those rules on the library table ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : If he asks for it, I will do so.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : What is the principle of imposing fines on the workers ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport): According to the rules and laws of the Transport Department in vogue in the State in this connection.

Shri SARBESWR BARDOLOI (Titabar) : Who is the authority to impose those fines ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Persons who are authorised by law.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: Is it a fact that when an issued ticket is found missing and the conductor could not collect it, the value of that ticket is realised from the conductor ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : I have no such information.

Transfer of State Transport Driver

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

71. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

- (a) How many drivers have been transferred from Gauhati-Shillong line to Nowgong-Jorhat-Dibrugarh line within the course of the last two years ?
- (b) What are their names ?
- (c) What were their pay before their transfer and after their transfer ?
- (d) Why the pay has been reduced ?
- (e) Whether the lost wages of the affected workmen be paid to them at an early date ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) replied :

71. (a)—13.

(b)—A list showing the names of drivers transferred is given below :—

List showing the names of drivers transferred from G-S. Route to Nowgong-Jorhat, Jorhat-Sibsagar-Dibrugarh and Dibrugarh-Saikhowaghat Routes during 1955 and 1956.

(1)	(2)	Transferred to	Remarks
		(3)	(4)
During 1955			
1. Shri Nirode Chandra Dutta	March, 1955 ..	J-S-D Route ..	Transferred back to G-S Route.
2. „ Krishna Kanta Sarma..	April „ ..	Do. ..	Do.
3. „ Manik Ch. Bora ..	May „ ..	Do. ..	Do.
4. „ Krishna Kanta Das ..	July „ ..	Do. ..	Do.
5. „ Kabiruddin Ahmed ..	July „ ..	Do. ..	Transferred back to G-S Route.
6. „ Saligram Upadhyay ..	July „ ..	Tinsukia ..	Do.
7. „ Dambaru Bharali ..	August „ ..	J-S-D Route ..	Do.
8. „ Saion Rai Singh ..	October „ ..	Do. ..	Do.
During 1956			
1. „ Krishna Chandra Das..	March 1956 ..	Nowgong ..	
2. „ Manohar Chandra Das	April „ ..	Tinsukia ..	
3. „ Harison	June „ ..	J-S-D Route ..	Under orders of transfer to G-S Route.
4. „ Ratindra Nath Goswami.	June „ ..	Tinsukia ..	
5. „ Kalu Sonari (II) ..	Sept. „ ..	J-S-D. ..	Transferred back to G-S Route.

(c)—They received the same pay after transfer which they used to draw on Gauhati-Shillong route as the pay scales throughout the organisation are same.

(d) & (e)—Do not arise.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : In the list given under (b) we find that many drivers were transferred to J. S. D. Route and then again transferred back to G. S. Route. May I know whether the original transfers were made as a measure of punishment ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) : Transfers are made in usual course.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : While they were sent on transfer they were given T. A. and as such certain expenditure had been borne by Government. Isn't it ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : They get their usual T. A. on transfer. Transfer is made when found necessary.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Does not the Government consider that such frequent transfers cause wastage of public money? Here the persons were transferred and again transferred back to their original place.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : That is usual in Government Service, when necessity arises, Sir. The persons concerned get the usual travelling allowances, etc.

Transport Corporation for the State Transport Organisation

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI asked :

72. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Government of Assam is considering to form a Transport Corporation for the running of the State Transport Organisation of the Government of Assam ?

(b) If so, when it will be done ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport):
replied :

72. (a) & (b) The matter is under consideration of Government.

Erosion by Dhaleswari

Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlichara) asked :

73. Will the Minister-in-charge of Embankment and Drainage be pleased to state—

(a) Whether he has lately received any representation about erosion by Dhaleswari River at Katlicherra bazar which is a developing market in Hailakandi Subdivision of Cachar district ?

(b) If so, how many representations have been received by him and from whom ?

(c) What action has been taken to protect the place ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, P. W. D.)
replied :

73. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Three. Two from Shri Roy himself and one from the Katlicherra Bazar Banik Samity.

(c)—Minor temporary protection work by means of tree-groynes to check embayment was completed in the flood season of 1955. Thereafter, investigations and detailed survey were carried out under an estimate sanctioned for Rs.1,424. But these revealed that an effective protection work of permanent nature would cost much more than the properties sought to be protected. Besides, the land involved is a Tea-garden land and does not belong to the general public. Under the circumstances the scheme has failed to find place in the Second Five Year Plan.

Licence to Government Officers for use of Liquor, Wine etc.

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) asked :

74. Will the Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state the names and designations of Government officers in whose names licence for use of liquor, wine, etc., are now in current ?

Shri CHATRA SING TERON (Minister, Excise) replied:

74. No licence for use of liquor, wine, etc., has been issued to any Government officer.

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) : মদ্য পান কৰা বিষয়া কোনো Prohibition area ত আছে বুলি চৰকাৰে জানেনে ?

Shri CHATRA SING TERON : সেইটো চৰকাৰে না জানে।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : With regard to Question No.74, may I know, Sir, whether the Deputy Commissioner, Gauhati is considered as a Government Servant ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. That need not be replied to.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North): Has the Deputy Commissioner got any licence for liquor, Sir ? If the information is not with the Minister, will the Government make any enquiry ?

Shri CHATRA SING TERON : No enquiry is necessary. It is already stated in the reply.

Subdivision-wise distribution of Fund for construction of Roads and Bridges

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINHA (Sonai) asked :

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

- (a) Whether the fund available from the Petrol Tax and State Exchequer for improvement and construction of roads and bridges has so far been distributed Subdivision-wise according to number of population and area basis ?

(b) If so when and what amount was allotted on roads in each Subdivision in the State in the years 1955-56 and 1956-57 (a Subdivision-wise statement may please be furnished) ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, P. W. D.)
replied :

75. (a) Funds available from Petrol Tax fund (*i. e.*, Central Road fund allocation—State's share) and state exchequer for improvement and construction of Roads have been distributed as follows :—

(1) Petrol Tax Fund

Prior to 1950.—According to needs and urgency in each area.

After 1950 and prior to 1955-56.—On the basis of average of Grid and Star formula based on deficiency of road mileage and Area-cum population (A programme for 5 years was drawn up in 1952 and is almost completed).

During 1955-56.—No distribution was made.

During 1956-57.—According to Grid and Star formula based on deficiency of road mileage. (Rs.70 lakhs has been available for second Plan period of which Rs.60 lakhs distributed Subdivisionwise and Rs.10 lakhs allocated to surfacing N. T. Road as recommended by the Assam Roads Communication Board).

(2) State Revenue

Prior to 1956-57.—According to needs and urgency in each area.

During 1956-57.—According to Grid and Star formula based on deficiency of road mileage. (A programme of Rs.30 lakhs has been drawn up and funds distributed Subdivision-wise.)

(b) No allocation was made during 1955-56. As referred to above, Rs.60 lakhs under Petrol Tax and Rs.30 lakhs out of State Revenue were distributed Subdivisionwise in 1956-57 as detailed below :—

Names of Subdivisions					Petrol Tax	State Revenue
(1)					(2)	(3)
					Rs. in lakhs.	Rs. in lakhs.
A—Plains District—						
1. North Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	1.48	0.74
2. Dibrugarh	...	...	...	...	3.84	1.92
3. Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	1.36	0.68
4. Jorhat	...	...	...	...	0.98	0.49
5. Golaghat	...	...	...	...	1.44	0.72
6. Nowgong	...	...	...	...	4.00	2.00
7. Tezpur	...	...	...	...	2.00	1.00
8. Mangaldai	...	...	...	...	2.40	1.20
9. Barpeta	...	...	...	...	3.20	1.60
10. Gauhati	...	...	...	...	4.00	2.00
11. Dhubri	...	...	...	...	5.76	2.88
12. Goalpara	...	...	...	...	1.68	0.89
13. Silchar	...	...	...	...	4.24	2.12
14. Karimganj	...	...	...	...	2.12	1.06
15. Hailakandi	...	...	...	...	1.50	0.75
A—Hills District—						
16. Kohima	...	...	...	...	1.12	0.56
17. Mokokchung	...	...	...	...	1.54	0.77
18. North Cachar Hills	...	...	...	...	0.96	0.48
19. Mikir Hills	...	...	...	...	3.12	1.56
20. Aijal	...	...	...	...	2.86	1.43
21. Lungleh	...	...	...	...	2.84	1.42
22. Shillong	...	...	...	...	2.44	1.22
23. Jowai	...	...	...	...	0.62	0.31
24. Tura	...	...	...	...	4.50	2.25
					60.00	30.00

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINGH (Sonai): May I know the reasons for non-distribution of the money during 1955-56?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, P.W.D.): There was no funds available at that time.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): I want one information, Sir. According to rule 29 of the Assembly rules, it is indicated that we should serve 15 days notice in advance while making a question. I remember to have served certain questions, which according to this limit ought to have come up as replies on 10th, 11th and today, but I do not find any of my replies even today.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the minimum time required. It is not obligatory that the replies should be given on the 15th day.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Then what is the maximum days required?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member may meet me in private when this matter will be settled, instead of taking the time of the House.

Demands for Grants

GRANT No. 23

42.- Co-operation—I.—Co-operative Societies

Shri BISHNU LAL UPADHYAYA (Gohpur): Sir, I find there is mention of my name in connection with a Cut Motion. I did not want to move any Cut Motion (*laughter*).

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, this is a mistake and the difficulty was that at that time a strike was there in the Government Press and so the accuracy could not be guaranteed in the matter of printing. Here instead of Bishnu Lal Upadhyaya it should have been Biswanath Upadhyaya. Of course I have got the copy on my table which has been corrected already.

Now questions are over. We may take up Demands for Grants, (Grant No.23) I call upon the Minister-in-charge to reply.

I would request the Minister to be brief in his reply as we are racing against the time.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative Societies): Sir, on Saturday last many speakers levelled criticism against the Co-operative Department with reference to various matters concerning this Department. Sir, co-operative principle and co-operative methods in its various aspect are largely accepted as a means to achieve our goal of Socialistic Pattern of Society. In order to guide the movement in the right path from time to time various committees were appointed by the Government of India, and the notable in the list of these committees is the Rural Survey Committee of the Reserve Bank of India. This committee while making survey of the rural indebtedness in the country came to the conclusion that the indebtedness of the Indian peasantry was to the extent of Rs.750 crores. In ascertaining the condition of the rural indebtedness from time to time such committees made various comments and assessments at particular times about the success or otherwise of the co-operative movement. My Friend, Shri Barbaruah quoted some of these remarks of different years from these different reports without much reference to the time factor. In fact, my Friend's quotations were out of their context. Therefore I respectfully submit that what he characterised as contradiction in the reports of the Co-operative Department is not correct. Sir, my Friend also complained about the policy of the Co-operative Department. Sir, the policy followed by this Department is the same as is being accepted all over India on the basis of the recommendation of the said All-India Rural Survey Committee. After the recommendations of the committee was out, these were a series of conferences of the State Ministers of Co-operatives held under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Ministry of the Government of India wherein certain policies were laid down, and in fact, the same policy is being followed here in Assam. Therefore the charge that the Government is not following proper policy is not correct. I emphasise that we are following the same policy as is being followed in other States of India.

Sir, in the context of rural indebtedness which comes to Rs. 750 crores in the whole of India it will not be wrong to estimate to the tune of Rs. 18 crores in Assam. In order to obviate this difficulty and to remove rural indebtedness of the people, at present there are 2,233 Primary Credit institutions working in this State. Apart from these there are 168 non-agricultural societies, 76 large size Credit Societies, 66 Multi-purpose societies and 10 Central Banks and Banking Unions over and above these are the Land Mortgage Bank and the Apex Co-operative Bank with branches all over the State.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North) : How many persons ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative): Sir, it would require time to compile the figures. If my Friend gives me notice, I will supply him with the necessary informations. Sir, by the end of 31st March, 1957, we issued the following loans

Short term loans Rs.76,74,000, medium term loans—Rs.13,97 000 and long term loans—Rs.2,01,000. Sir, though the Rural Survey Committee referred to by me earlier decided that we should try to cover 40 per cent of rural indebtedness within 10 to 15 years, our Co-operative Department has decided to cover the same within five years time ; that is by 1960-61 we intend to cover 40 per cent of our total indebtedness. Sir, In fact our target in 1955-56 was 80 lakhs but we actually issued loans to the extent of Rs.88 lakhs. The target in 1956-57 is Rs.150 lakhs and I am sure we will achieve it. Sir, my Friend, Shri Borbarua, has referred about the difficulties of getting loans ; he said that it was difficult on part of the people to get loans. For the information of the House I may say that there is practically not much difficulty on this issue ; because it is known to the hon. Members of this House that so far as short term loans are concerned we do not insist on any sort of security, and therefore, there cannot be any difficulty in getting the loans.

Sir, in order to expedite the tackling of the problem of rural indebtedness it has been decided to organise 300 large size Credit Societies in the Second Plan period of which 100 number will be provided with godowns. These godowns will be constructed out of both grants and loans ; 75 per cent will be loan and 25 per cent grant. Along with this, Sir, in order to tackling the problem of marketing we intend to establish 60 Primary Marketing Societies under an Apex Marketing Society which is being established and Government have already taken steps in this direction by contributing one lakh of rupees to this Apex Marketing Society. Each of these Marketing Societies will have a godown each. In facts out of these 15 godowns, 9 for large size Societies and 6 for small size Societies are at present under construction. Sir, the principle of State participation in co-operative organisations is actively followed. And in order to do that, on part of State we require more trained persons. All these persons were hitherto being trained at Jaysagar in the Training Institutes already established by the Government but that was not sufficient. So another Training

Institute is going to be established at Tezpur which will start functioning very soon and we will be able to obviate our difficulties of men shortage. Sir, we are also following the policy of subsidising the maintenance of the staff Co-operative institutions, and the establishment of godowns and societies, etc.

Sir, Co-operative Department has established certain Co-operative Mills. This is helping industrialisation too. But, Sir, on the other day Shri Borbaruah was thundering the House. He said that the Co-operative Department is running in the name of co-operatives limited companies and so he was against the Co-operative Sugar Mill at Dergaon. Sir, when the prospects of industrialisation of Assam immediately is faced with great difficulties, I thought the effort done by the Co-operative Department to industrialise Assam would receive encouragement from the Hon. Friends but I am constrained to find a contrary reception. Sir, I can tell my Friend that in order to help the cultivators and processing of agricultural produce our Government has established the Co-operative Sugar mill at Dergaon. In this connection I would like to say for the information of the House that already a cotton ginning mill had been established at Philobari; another at Diphu is being established. We are going to establish one more Co-operative Sugar Mill under the Second Five Year Plan and possibly the location of it will be in Nowgong. This is in its formative stage. Sir, my Friend wanted to know the differences between the Co-operative Society and a Company.....

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North): More or less it is a limited company.....

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative): It is not so. There are fundamental differences between a co-operative society and a company.....

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: We know, Sir, in paper only it is alright.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The fundamental difference between a co-operative society and a company is this while in a company the votes are according to the number of shares held, in a Co-operative the rates are according to the number of members. That is each member has only one vote irrespective of the number of shares he may be holding.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Whether it is the co-operative society of the growers?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North): Whether it is the co-operative society of the capitalists?

Mr. SPEAKER : Let the Hon'ble Minister finish his speech. Let the House hear what the Hon'ble Minister has to say. If you interrupt like this, the Hon'ble Minister will not be able to reply to the points already raised. You have had already your say, let the Hon'ble Minister say his say now.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative): Sir, the growers of the Dergaon and nearby areas had no facilities for processing their sugar canes, so they formed a co-operative society, actually the initiative came from the growers themselves. Now, Sir, after the growers had formed the Co-operative Society, they found that they had not got sufficient capital. So they decided to take some non-growers also as the members of their Society by selling shares. Similarly, State also came to their rescue by giving them subsidies which they took. Now by merely taking some non-growers as members, the Co-operative cannot lose its character.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, may I have an elucidation from the Hon'ble Minister whether the number of growers in that Co-operative Society is greater or the number of non-growers is greater?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The number of grower members is 2,582 and the number of non-growers is 1,828. Besides, this 724 co-operative societies are also its members. So my Friend will find that the number of growers either individually or collectively is much more than the number of non-growers. Sir, for the information of the hon. Members of the House I may add here that the first production of sugar is likely in 1958 and the annual production will be about 8,000 tons.

Sir, Before finishing my speech about the Co-operative Mills I would like to give a reply to the points raised by Capt. Sangma. I regret he is not present now. I can tell the House that although he was the Vice-President of the Philobar Co-operative Ginning Mill in Garo Hills, he never gave the necessary co-operation to this concern.

Although he accepted the post of the Vice-President of that co-operative mill, he never felt like co-operating with the concern to the extent we expected. When he joined the co-operative mill as Vice-President, it was expected of him that he would feel the responsibility of the position and would give necessary co-operation, but he did not give that. On the contrary, Sir, he was complaining here that in spite of starting of that mill the Garo people were not getting the requisite price of the cotton. Before starting of that mill, the condition of the cotton-growers of Garo Hills was really pitiable; they were not getting their due price. I am told, that due to certain administrative measures taken by the Deputy Commissioner and also due to the setting up of that mill, their condition has improved. My Friend, Mr. Sangma, was complaining about lack of supervision; the same was the complaint from another hon. Member of the Opposition. Sir, I can assure them that to ensure proper supervision, inspection, audit and contact with people, the officers are now being posted circle-wise; each circle consisting of two National Extension Service or Community Development Blocks, existing or proposed, instead of the officers being kept at the headquarters of a district or subdivision. I hope this decentralisation will pave the way for greater supervision and control and that there will not be much complaint on this score. Further, I assure the hon. Members that if any particular case is brought to my notice I will enquire into it.

Sir, my Friend, Shri Tarun Sen Deka, has developed a complex against the members of the Congress. Whenever he speaks of anything wrong in any organisation he insinuates that it is because of the presence of Congress members in that particular concern or organisation. While he was speaking the other day about certain irregularities in a particular co-operative concern he said that because Congressmen were there, there were difficulties. I say, Sir, the difficulties of that co-operative was not from the Congressmen but from the non-co-operation of themselves. In order to meet such difficulties, Sir, the Survey Committee's report pointed out to the Government that they should take increasing interest in the co-operatives so as not to allow a co-operative being killed internally or externally by such people who join it to destroy it. I have, therefore, got a feeling that Mr. Deka was not speaking of the Congressmen but of his own kins who had entered that co-operative, possibly in the guise of Congressmen to smash it. We are taking necessary safeguards against such eventualities; the new policy of Government is to take an increasing interest in co-operatives and I hope, Sir, those non-co-operators, who in

guise are trying to smash the co-operatives will not have much opportunities in future. I can assure my Friend to that extent. However, if he submits a written complaint I shall cause an enquiry.

Sir, my Friend, Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya, made a very valuable suggestion about extending the work of the Co-operative Department in the tea garden areas. I really feel, Sir, we have got to do a lot in this respect, particularly when the condition of the *ex-tea* garden labourers without employment is really bad. I have taken note of his valued suggestion and I can assure him that I will examine the possibility of extending the work of the Co-operative Department to tea garden and *ex-tea* garden areas.

Sir, my Friend, Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah, asked the Government to take an increasing interest in co-operative farming. I can inform the hon. Member that there are 120 co-operative farming societies working at present in the State. Of course, these societies are more for securing lands and in doing so, they contemplate generally some sort of loose co-operative farming. We are studying the report of the Committee which visited China, of which you, Sir, was an august member, and as soon as our study is over, we hope to take up this aspect of the matter in order to put it on a better footing.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): I may inform the Hon'ble Minister that in the Silipukhuri Co-operative Farming Society some big Congressmen, who have enough land got land there in the name of the Co-operative.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative): Sir, according to our Ceiling Act a man is allowed to possess 150 bighas of land now. Of this 150 bighas, if a man keeps 100 bighas or even 149 bighas in a co-operative farm, we must not be worried about that. A man is allowed to keep 150 bighas in all personally or through himself and a Co-operative. The whole point is that a man will not be able to retain more than 150 bighas of land, whether through a co-operative or individually, after the Ceiling Act comes into operation. In order to obviate further difficulties in this matter, we have in this very Session introduced a legislation to amend the Ceiling Act. Therefore, the apprehension of my Friend will not be there after we have passed the Act.

Sir, some of my Friends asked us to develop our activities in other directions too—particularly with respect to industries. I can tell them we have got considerable activities towards granting industrial loans to co-operative societies. We have

already granted Rs.27,850 to 10 societies as industrial loans for taking to more industrial activities. Similarly, Sir, two milk pasteurisation plants are being established at Gauhati and Jorhat. I may inform the House that so far as the Gauhati plant is concerned, it will be put into operation very soon. We have given a loan of Rs.45,000 to that co-operative milk pasteurisation society. So far as Jorhat is concerned, we have given them a loan of Rs.1,05,000. So, Sir, it would be evident that the activities of the Department are increasing in almost every sphere of life of the people.

Sir, I hope these replies of mine will satisfy my hon. Friends. Of course, I have not been able to cover some minor points for want of time but nevertheless they will receive my attention and I will try to remove all snags found anywhere. I therefore, hope, Sir, my Friends opposite will be kind enough to withdraw their Cut Motions.

Mr. SPEAKER : Does Mr. Khogendra Nath Barbaruah want to withdraw his cut motion ?

Shri KHOGENDBRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : Yes, Sir.

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

Mr. SPEAKER : I put the original demand now.

The question is that a sum of Rs.27,46,900, 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 "42.—Co-operation—I—Co-operative Societies."

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No. 53.

[72-Capital Outlay on Industrial Development
(II—Development of Co-operative)].

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 37,75,000 (Rupees thirty seven lakhs and seventy-five thousand), 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 "72.—Capital Outlay, etc. II—Development of Co-operatives."

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): We are not going to move our Cut Motion, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs. 37,75,000 (Rupees thirty-seven lakhs and seventy-five thousand) 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 "72.—Capital Outlay, etc.—II—Development of Co-operative."

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No. 30

(52-A—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes)

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.3,19,300 (Rupees three lakhs, nineteen thousand and three hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head "52.-A—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.3,19,300 (Rupees three lakhs, nineteen thousand and three hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head "52.—A—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes".

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

GRANT No.31

(XLI.—Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses)

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.9,14,600 (Rupees nine lakhs, fourteen thousand and six hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958 for the administration of the head "XLI.—Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.9,14,600 (Rupees nine lakhs, fourteen thousand and six hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head "XLI.—Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses".

There are two Cut Motions standing in the names of Shri Hareswar Goswami and Rev. Roy. As both of them are absent, I now put the question to the House.

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

Grant No.56

(81-A—Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes)

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.58,53,800 (Rupees fifty-eight lakhs, fifty-three thousand and eight 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 "81-A. Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.58,53,800 (Rupees fifty-eight lakhs, fifty-three thousand and eight 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 "81-A. Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes".

There are no Cut Motions.

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

Grant No.14 (29.—Police)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.3,78,38,500 (Rupees three crores, seventy-eight lakhs, thirty-eight 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 "29.—Police".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.3,78,38,500 (Rupees three crores, seventy-eight lakhs, thirty-eight 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 "29.—Police".

There are as many as 18 Cut Motions.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Sir, with your permission we will only move Cut Motion No.10 which is of a general nature. If you permit us to move, then we will move only Cut Motion No.10.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): Sir, I also want to make a few observation. In Grant No.45 we can gain some time, and so also in Grant No.19 under Public Health we will gain some time. We want to increase the time under Grant No.14 so that we can also take part in the general discussion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will follow the usual practice, which means 50 per cent time to the Opposition and 50 per cent time to the Minister to reply.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.3,78,38,500 under Grant No.14, Major head—29.—Police at page 112, of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3,78,38,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my intention to move this cut motion is to raise a general discussion on the Police administration. Police administration in our State has been deteriorating. There is everywhere corruption. There is no checking on the part of the Government to do away with corruption in the Police administration. In this connection I can give the House innumerable instances. I have been informed and also know personally that when any man is lodging information to a Police station he is to pay something to the Police officer, otherwise his information will not be recorded. It is reported that in many police cases after a case is chargesheeted it has become no man's business, as the complainant has to go very often to the court for issue of summons to the witnesses, etc. We have seen that in the Barpeta Subdivision most of the cases of murder and dacoity has failed due to the Police officers' negligence or for taking improper steps.

Then, Sir, it is seen that when cases of serious nature like murder and dacoity, etc., are reported to the police station the Police Officer does not go to the locality for immediate enquiry on the spot, on the other hand cases registered under Section 145 Criminal Procedure Code or under section 107 Criminal Procedure Code or when a search warrant is issued for the production of a girl, it is executed by the Police or enquired immediately. It shows that there is corruption in these respects.

It is reported, in our Barpeta Subdivision, specially from Sorbhog Police Station that there were some serious cases like murder and dacoity. It is also reported that some murders were committed under the instruction of the Police officers. I know personally one case. Mauzadar of Titapani, Shri Intaz Ali Choudhury is a rich man, and the police knew him to be so, and he thought he would get money from him, if he or his family is entangled with some serious cases, instructed some relatives of Mauzader to murder some one, which was done subsequently. Police extorted money from Mouzadar's family and it was a huge amount.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Home Minister): Who was that Police Officer; was he the Officer-in-charge?

Shri TAZUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): Yes, Sir. This matter was then reported to us, and we three Members of the Legislative Assembly of the locality informed this matter to a top-ranking Police officer who assured us that necessary action would be taken immediately. But unfortunately, Sir, nothing has been done against this officer till to-day.

Then again in the Tarabari Police Station, there have been so many murder cases within a month's time; it is also reported that in some of these cases Police Officers are entangled, and we reported the matter to the higher authority here at Shillong. But nothing appears to have been done. So we can infer that it is so because of the slackness of the Police administration at the top.

Sir, there is corruption everywhere in the Police administration in the district level, and this is, I think, due to the poverty of the low paid police personnel in the lower grades that they stoop to these malpractices. So I suggest that they should be paid sufficiently so that trifle allurements may not attract them to stoop so low. At the same time drastic actions should be taken against those Police officers who adopt

corrupt practices. Unless this is done, I am afraid, there will be more and more corruption and the whole police administration will be demoralised. Sir, it is with this purpose, *i. e.*, to root out corruption from the Police administration, I have moved this cut motion and I press it for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.3,78,38,500 under Grant No. 14, Major head—29.—Police at page 112 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3,78,38,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by my Friend, Mr. Tazuddin. Regarding corruption in the Police administration much less said is better. We have seen during the Budget discussion some Members from the Government side even criticised the action of the Police. Knowing fully well the consequences of party discipline even they thought it fit and proper to bring it to the notice of the Government on the floor of the House instead of representing it to the Minister-in-charge concerned in their party meetings. Sir, we have seen in Karimganj this corruption of the Police is increasing every day. The Police, instead of detecting cases of burglary, dacoity, smuggling, rather supported the culprits and the innocent people are being harassed in hundred and one way. You know, Sir, Karimganj Subdivision is situated on the border of Pakistan where black marketing and smuggling are rampant. Hundreds of maunds of rice and paddy are being daily sent out to Pakistan by the big merchants, and we know definitely, some of our Police officers are directly conniving these parties in return of big gratification from the parties. We know some of these Police officers earn 500 to 700 rupees for each case and allowed this smuggling to go undetected. So, instead of detecting these cases of malpractice and bringing the culprits to book, they are found harassing the poor and harmless people living in the border areas, who after day's hard labour purchase five seers of rice or some other commodities of daily necessities, with a view just to show that they are not sitting idle, but doing some work. We know ****** a big smuggler, is being helped by the Officer In-charge of Karimganj Police Station to smuggle out rice in large quantities. This is going on openly from his shop situated on the river Kusiara with the help of Officer In-charge and other officers. Truck loads of rice with the connivance of the Police are going to Pakistan. There are also some other

******Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Congressmen who are also entangled in these heinous crimes of smuggling. If the hon. Minister wants to have their names, I am ready to give it. When the officers and very responsible men of congress are entangled in this way in these affairs, how you can expect to solve the problem, how can these malpractices be stopped? Sir, we have seen one notorious person****entangled in the Poamara murder case and who once fled to Pakistan, was brought back here by a political Party to carry on canvassing work during the last General Elections—is also entangled in these works. He is not the only person, but there are many other Pakistani people roaming at large and carrying on smuggling and dacoities.

* * * *

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, I have noticed the hon. Member has mentioned certain names. The usual practice in the House of Commons as also in the Lok Sabha regarding procedure to be followed in respect of any allegation against a person is this.

“No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a Member against any person unless the Member has given previous intimation to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply.”

It is a wholesome practice and if any name is mentioned and allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature is made in the House, the name or names of the person or persons concerned should be given to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned for the purpose of prior investigation. So, I request the hon. Members that in future when any hon. Member wants to mention any name he may please give prior notice to the Speaker and the Minister-in-Charge of the department.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North)
Thank you Sir. In future I shall abide by your ruling. The purpose of my mentioning the names was not that I want a verdict to be passed by the hon. Minister here and now, but that enquiries should be instituted against these people in due course.

Now, I was going to say something about the Police excesses. My Friend, Shri Harinarayan Barua, said the other day on the floor of the House that we should remember that we were not living in a Police State. But I can tell you, Sir, in this respect we have not yet been able to do away with the

legacy of the British regime. Last time on 18th August 1956 when our Chief Minister was visiting Karimganj, what did we see then? We saw Section 144 was promulgated. Not only that many Policemen including armed guards, Boarder *Militia*, National Cadet Corps from the college and schools had been there to protect the Chief Minister as if the people of Karimganj were going to kill him. All these have reminded us of the old British regime, the years 1932 and 1942 came to our mind. The Superintendent of Police there had beaten some boys mercilessly, some 4 or 5 boys were beaten by the Superintendent of Police with a big cane stick. When the matter came to the notice of the Chief Minister, he called for me. I have complained these Police excesses to the Chief Minister on behalf of the people of Karimganj. The Chief Minister told me to give a written complaint so that a judicial enquiry into the matter might be made. I gave a written statement and I also gave reminder but he did not care to reply nor any action was taken by the Government though assurance was given by the head of the State. On the other hand, a case was framed by the Officer-in-charge and other police officers of Karimganj Thana that these students violated Section 144 and made demonstrations—that they also harassed the police who were on duty. A charge-sheet against five or six persons was framed. Sir, very recently we have seen in the papers that six boys have been convicted, the conviction may be small, say a fine of Rs.5 or one day's jail, the fact is that the Police Superintendent assaulted the boys and they were also convicted on false charge-sheet, because the entire machinery of administration is in their hands as in the British regime. I am not going into the merit of the question nor am I to criticise the judgement of the court. But to my mind, this order of the magistrate was given under the direction of the police officer and my charge is that the same things were going on as in the British regime. If this is not Police administration I don't know what it is.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): On a point of order, Sir, we are discussing here on the motion under head 'Police'. My Friend is going elsewhere. We have given direction to the magistrate to convict a man.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. My difficulty here is this. I do not know what is the point of order since that is not mentioned anywhere in these rules. I know the point of order that is practised in the House of Commons as well as in the Lok Sabha. The point of order shall relate to any enforcement of these rules or such articles of the Constitution, that is to regulate the business of the House. That is the point of order.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Sir, my contention is that we are discussing a demand on head 'Police'. My Friend was saying that we have given a direction to the magistrate to convict a man. That comes under another head "General Administration".

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the contention of the hon. Member that the police instructed the magistrate?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): The higher Police officers have instructed the magistrate to take action against the boys only to save their prestige, for I cannot disbelieve what I have seen with my own eyes.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the contention of the hon. Member is that the police authority has given a direction that would be in order. But if he contended that it was done by somebody else other than the police, then it would not be in order in this debate.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: My contention is that the Superintendent of Police instituted a false case against those persons. As all these happenings took place in my very eyes, I reported the matter to the Chief Minister but no action was taken by him though he promised for a judicial enquiry.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: Sir, how can the hon. Member say that it is a false case when it ended in conviction? Whether the judgment of the court can be called for?

Mr. SPEAKER: Under the rules, no matter can be discussed in this House which is *sub-judice*, when once the court has decided and given a verdict.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): That can be done, Sir, because the Legislature is supreme.

Mr. SPEAKER: Therefore, I would advise the hon. Member not to press that point too far. In addition to that, the time is already up.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, regarding election, I tell you that some of the police officers, under the leadership of the Officers-in-charge, Karimganj Police Station directly canvassed for the Congress candidate, threatened the villages with dire consequences. Instead of maintaining law and order, we have seen that our police officers are rather the persons who fomented trouble and tried to create disturbances in public meetings just before the election took place. I can cite some instances. So far as meetings in Latu Kaliganj and Fakiur Bazar are concerned, when the people were being harassed by the Congress volunteers, and the congress volunteers were being helped by our police officers under the leadership

of Officer-in-charge, Police Station and in order to terrorise a section of the people, some persons who are members of the Local Boards and Panchayats belonging to our party have been arrested and then brought to Karimganj with handcuffs. These are the things which we have seen before the election. We want that Government should take note of these things and cause an enquiry to be made or take steps and to transfer the Officer-in charge of Karimganj Police Station for the interest of the administration. Sir, some post-election activities are also going on. For example, **** a Sarpanch of other party was indicted to be an anti State person because he worked against the Congress. There are innumerable cases of reprisals going on. We have seen that the Officer-in-charge can declare X, Y and Z as anti-State according to his own sweet will. Who has given him this authority ?

* * * * *

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) : Sir, this is not fair. He is casting aspersions and making allegations without mentioning the name.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. It is very difficult to draw a line of distinction between what is aspersion and what is not aspersion. The hon. Member was referring to actions taken on police reports. But I would say this much that nothing should be said in this House which is detrimental to the dignity of the House. I would, therefore, request the hon. Members that whenever they make any submission, to couch it in polite language and not to make any reference to individuals, but to give them to the Speaker or to the Minister-in-charge so that proper investigation can be made.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) : Sir, my point was that from the reports of the Officer-in-charge Police Station, Subdivisional Officer declared that X Y Z is anti-State. Who have given them such wide powers ?

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : Sir, on a point of order I want to draw your attention that under Rule 17 (vii) of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, a Member while speaking shall not utter treasonable, seditious or defamatory words. My submission is that if an hon. Member

says on the floor of this House that a particular person who is an officer of the State to be anti-State, I think it is injurious to the interest of the State.

S'ri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) : On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I never said like that. What I said was that on a report of the Officer-in-charge, Karimganj Police Station, Subdivisional Officer declared persons as anti-State, but what about the real anti-State people—you call for the report of the Intelligence Department about them.

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. I have heard that. The rule referred to by my Friend already received my attention. On certain matters of public interest it may be necessary for an hon. Member to bring to the notice of this House certain matters which ordinarily would be defamatory. But it should be our duty when we will have to do so, to furnish the facts to the Speaker or to the Minister-in-charge so that proper investigation may be made. That is the ruling which I gave just now and that is also the practice followed both in the House of Commons and in the Lok Sabha. So far as this rule is concerned as just quoted, it is only an extension or a clarifications of this rule.

Now, the hon. Member from Gauhati.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we are racing for time I shall only place certain facts before this House. It was said not only by the hon. Member-in-charge of Village Defence Organisation, but also by the Finance Minister himself that ours is today a welfare State and not a police State. I wish that the sentiments of my Friends on the other side which are really very noble and lofty were translated into practice ! Sir, according to the census of 1951 the area of Assam *minus* North-East Frontier Agency is 54,043 sq. miles and the population is 90,07,000. Now, let us see for this area and for this population what is the allocation for welfare services and service of the police. Let us take one item of welfare services, say medical and public health. Now, we find that the number of doctors, nurses, etc., excluding establishment and also class IV employees, comes to 1,290 including both Medical and Public Health Departments : and the number of policemen excluding establishment and class IV employees and also Village Defence personnel, comes to 12,177. Therefore, the ratio comes to 1 doctor for every ten policemen. Yet, this is a welfare State ! Then, if we go to the ratio between

population and welfare service we find that for every 42 sq. miles of an area there is only one doctor on the average. If we see that the density of population in our State is 167 per sq. mile and that the number of towns and villages in our State, is, 25,032 then we find that one doctor has to serve 7,000 persons covering 11·6 villages and towns—yet this is a welfare State and not a police State! Then, Sir, if we go to the question of number of beds in hospitals including Medical College Hospital at Dibrugarh, we find that according to the figures of 1952, there are 1,632 beds in our hospitals for males throughout the whole State and for females only 776. Thus the total comes to 2,408 only and we find that the ratio of these hospital beds to the population of 90 lakhs 70 thousand comes to this, that for every 4 thousand person there is only one hospital bed. So if from these figures Government consider that ours is not a police State but a welfare State, then at least I am still to be convinced.

Sir, I do not want to generate heat in this House because that will not serve any purpose. But if police report is to be taken as gospel truth, then is it or is it not a fact that against many responsible Ministers of today there are very adverse police reports? I do not know whether I am making any defamatory statement or not if I say that some of such responsible persons were reported to be agents of Pakistan whose activities were considered subversive, anti-State, etc. Whether the hon'ble Ministers agree with me or not, I can say that against some other Ministers of today there are very adverse police reports as being anti-State, subversive, etc. But what they have proved to be actually is that they are very good and loyal citizens. They are serving the country today in the highest capacity. So police reports in my opinion need not always be taken as gospel truth. Often it so happens that police men send their reports being influenced either by wrong information or some other considerations. So, it should be the duty and lookout of the Government of a welfare State to see that policemen who have very important duty to perform are above corruption. Not only that they should be honest, good and above corruption, but they should, like Cæsar's wife be above suspicion too. But that is not the condition in our country today.

I do not know whether my Friend, the Home Minister, will take me amiss, but I can say that there are certain gross instances even in this capital town of Shillong and in the cultural centre of the State, namely, at Gauhati—which ought not to

have escaped notice of the Government. When public opinion wanted it, the Gauhati Municipality decided that the prostitute quarters which were on the two sides of the railway lines should be abolished and they were abolished to the great relief of the people there. Now, Sir, will the Hon'ble Minister enquire whether in between Matri Hotel and Paramount Boarding in Fancy Bazar one owned by a Muslim and another by a Hindu where there is complete Hindu-Muslim unity—whether in between these two hotels there is a den or not where one Bariwali has been keeping about 25 of these fallen women and not only under the connivance but under the protection of the Police administration of Gauhati? Then, on the other side, *i. e.*, on the southern side of Takobari, the same thing is going on. Whether these are facts or not let the Minister enquire.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Will the hon. Member repeat the name of the place?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): In between Matri Hindu Hotel on the south and the Paramount Hotel on the north at Fancy Bazar. If the Hon'ble Minister wants, I shall give him the name of the Bariwali secretly because I do not want to give her name as she is not here to defend herself. The fact is that under the protection of a well-known Bariwalli in that place there are about 25 fallen women and under the protection of the Police.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): How does he know this? (*Laughter*)

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Everybody at Gauhati knows and if the Minister passes one evening by that side he will see these things himself (*laughter*). Of course, I do not know whether he will like to go there or not.

That is one instance I have given. Then, I am sorry to say about another instance. There is a Muslim gentleman in Hajo who happened to be an enthusiastic supporter of my Friend Mr. Tajuddin Ahmed, during the election previous to the last general election in which Mr. Tajuddin Ahmed contested the Chief Minister. Now the Officer-in-charge of the Hajo Police Station, influenced by whom I do not know, gave indescribable troubles to him. That gentleman who was a contractor and a well-to-do peasant, was dragged to court under Section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code and then the case dragged on

Ultimately he was acquitted by a magistrate, Mr. Thomas. Afterwards that Officer-in-charge was transferred to Rangia. This gentleman went to Kumarikata to a relative's house and there he was again arrested and under the same section and he was again acquitted by a magistrate, Mr. Chaudhury. The gentleman was arrested simply because he had the 'audacity' of helping the rival of the Chief Minister. He was arrested not under any substantive charge but under Section 110. I happened to meet him the other day at Gauhati and asked him how he was doing. He said, "Oh! I am safe now. I have become an active member of the Congress Organisation paying Rs.11." (*laughter*). Whether this is correct or not let the Minister enquire. If I am wrong in my submission, I shall seek unconditional apology.

Then, Sir, what happened in one place at Gauhati, a central place of Gauhati? The man who marred the happy Idd festival year before last by taking a gang of people to the Athgaon side, is a very well-known labour Sirdar. Now in one cognisable case he was wanted by the Magistrate on warrant and the Police was asked to arrest him and produce him in the Court. It is about one and half years that the man is moving at large. Although non-bailable warrant was issued, the Police have not executed it up till now.

I am giving another instance. One man from Hajo, who was a President or Secretary or at least an office-bearer of the local Panchayat, and who is a Homeopathic Doctor and President of the Managing Committee of a School, though not for any political reason but due to a rivalry with an influential person of that locality, was falsely implicated in a case and he was arrested. Now, bail petitions were moved for him. The magistrate said naturally that Ejahar did not come so he could not give bail. He was sent to jail. And when Ejahar came, Police report did not come and when Police report came, the Police said that they were investigating and thus the person continued to be in jail. Again when the day of putting up diary came, the Additional District Magistrate was absent and it went to another Magistrate but that Magistrate said that let this be dealt with by the Additional District Magistrate. In this way 1 month and 15 days passed and all this time the gentleman had to be in the jail Hajot. Ultimately, however, no charge-sheet was sent against him as there was no case and he was acquitted. He had to be in the jail Hajot for 1½ months simply because his rival was a moneyed man.

Let me give another instance. I do not want to give out the name, althought I have got the paper with me.

মই.....চিভিল ড্ৰেচত পুলিচ ৰিজাৰ্ভৰ বেজ নম্বাৰ ৭২৯.....
নামৰ এজনী খাছিয়ানী ছোৱালীৰ লগত কালাপাহাৰত ফুৰিবলৈ আহোঁতে ৰাস্তাৰ পৰা
১ ফাৰিং ভিতৰত অলপ জলৰ ভিতৰত কালাপাহাৰৰ ৰাইজে সন্দেহ ক্ৰমে আঁমাক
ধৰিছিল আৰু গাওঁবুঢ়াই আনাক এই লিখিত পত্ৰ লৈ ৰাইজে এৰি দিছে।

A Policeman went to stroll in the evening to a jungle near Kalapahar! And after this what happened! One man who is one of the Members of the Village Defence Party, happened to go to Gauhati and this Policeman, his Number is 929 of the Police Reserve, Kamrup, along with another Policeman dragged him from the road to the Reserve and gave him grilling of a third degree and kept him confined there for the night and next day released him with a warning that if he would report about this to anybody else he would be killed. The matter was reported to me by some people of that locality and immediatly I informed the Police Superintendent and the Superintendent asked me to procure the original letter and send it to the O/C., Gauhati Police Station. I sent this to him. This letter was dated 12th June, 1957. But up till now that policeman has not even been suspended. How can we expect that we shall raise the morale of the Police if this sort of thing is connived at or ignored?

Then I come to another thing. The Ministers very often go to Gauhati, but I would only request them not to go in cars and with caps but to go as ordinary people in plain dress and they will find that almost in every important road crossing there are public gambling going on. That is popularly called 'Tinpatti'. They will further notice that almost everywhere the Policeman are watching and guarding such gambling, because therefrom they get a good share. Sir, this has been repeatedly reported even personally by me to the Police. It was only during the last Dewali day when the Superintendent of Police had come to me and said that he wanted my co-operation so that these people could be found out as they were creating a lot of nuisance. Only that day they showed some activity to stop it. But on other occasions we did not find this. As a result of this many innocent and unsophisticated village people who come to the town suffer in the hands of these cheats who do this gambling. We find that the Police is not actually taking any step to stop it. Last but not the least, I beg to draw the

attention of the Minister-in-charge about the complete inefficiency of the Criminal Investigation Department. Let me cite one instance of Shillong. It was on the 6th of April, 1957 that one young boy named Sriman Abani Misra, son of Sri Nalini Misra was found missing from that evening. I think it is known to all the Ministers. It was suspected that he fell in the hands of a gang and it was brought to the notice of the Police with whom an Ejahar was lodged. But the Police failed to find out any trace of the boy, and it was only on the 12th, i. e., after 7 days that the dead body of the boy was found in a nearby falls. Now, when the dead body was found, it was suspected that it was a clear case of cold blooded murder. But in spite of that no clue was found out by the Police, the C. I. D. Now, what is the use of this Department for which we are spending so much money in this State if crimes like this go undetected? What these people are being paid for? Sir, without taking any more time of the House, because many other Friends want to speak on the subject, I would say without any bitterness for the consideration of the Minister-in-charge to make proper enquiry and set things right. We should prove by practice that it is no more a Police State; it is a welfare State. Whatever is required to be done by the Police is not for the oppression of the people but for their welfare; With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): Sir, I would only say a few words. We have the speeches of the hon. Members, and their criticism in respect of some acts of the Police Department. Now I would only ask the Minister-in-charge to just imagine what is the condition of the Police administration in the Muffassil areas! I would request the Minister-in-charge to enquire into them and improve the situation. With these words I resume my seat.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Cut Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Tazuddin Ahmed.

Sir, everybody in this House knows fully well that the Police system in our country are notorious. If we look at the Police system in England we see that it is the most well organised Department of the Government. I have seen London Police most helpful. They are very dignified, well mannered and always ready to help strangers. If somebody is in trouble

or some crimes are committed, Police will be at your disposal in no time. You have just to go to the Telephone booth and dial 999 and immediately the Police will beat your door ready to help you in any emergency. The Police is moving about the town twenty-four hours a day.

But on the contrary if we look at the Police system in our country then we shall see that it is perhaps the most corrupt department of our Government. Our Police are not honest, they are most unreliable and takes to bribery. We know fully well how corrupt and inefficient our Police system is.

In coming to a particular instance, I like to mention about the mess going on at present at the Sorbhog Police Station. After the transfer of the former Officer-in-charge and immediately the present Officer-in-charge*** had taken charge of the Sorbhog Police Station crimes went on increasing. Many thefts cases took place and when people come to lodge Ejahars to the Police Station most of the Ejahars are not recorded. He must be paid some money for that. Wherever he goes for enquiry he never comes back without taking some bribes. Most of the thefts and burglary cases go undetected. As the thieves know fully well that they would not be detected, they commit more thefts and burglaries. It is now a hey day for the thieves and dacoits under the jurisdiction of the present Officer-in-charge of Sorbhog Police Station. Thefts are being committed within a distance of a quarter of a mile and no attempts have been made by the Officer-in-charge to take any action against the suspected person. On the other hand he searches houses of some persons whose conduct are beyond any suspicion.

I would like to cite one instance of his dealing with the criminals. There was a dacoity in a village named Kalitapara. After two or three days he went for enquiry with a dozen Police in a Police Van and after enquiry he came back but nothing happened after that. When we enquired what happened with the detection of the case, the Officer-in-charge said that the person in whose house dacoity was committed had a beautiful wife and some person wanted to kidnap her. The Officer-in-charge is indirectly connected with some Goondas and he gets a share of the booty. This particular Officer-in-charge does not generally visit the Hindu inhabited areas as there is less scope

*** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

for getting bribes from them. But he goes to the immigrant villages, threaten them and collect money from them. The Officer-in-charge*** is very rude in his behaviour and an ordinary person cannot approach him without giving bribes.

I reported these things to the Inspector of Police but although he promised that he would take some action against him he did nothing. How could he take any action when he also sails in the same boat? They are all creating a vicious circle of corruption, bribery and what not at Sorbhog.

When no action was taken against him we three M. L. As from Barpeta Subdivision met a very highly placed Police Officer at Shillong on the last 6th of May. We told him everything and submitted a written petition, asking for his transfer. He promised that the present Officer-in-charge, Sorbhog Police Station would be transferred immediately but it is more than a month, and he had not yet been transferred.

Later on we sent telegrams to Shillong for the delay of transfer. The public also sent petitions to the Government. On my way to Shillong I met the Superintendent of Police, Gauhati and also told him everything. But yet the said Police Officer is still at Sorbhog. Sir, it is a matter of shame on the part of the Government, if in spite of so many representations, the said officer could not be transferred nor any action taken against him.

Sir, during the last general election the said Officer-in-charge*** played a leading part for canvassing for the Congress candidate. He seized my car which I used for my election and hampered in every way in my election campaign, and since he helped the Congress, the Government is reluctant to take any action against him.

He says that he does not care for anybody at Sorbhog. He boasts that the Chief Minister of Assam comes from Hajo and he also hails from Hajo and that is why he does not care anybody. He can go on in his own way.

Sir, after independence we expected that Ram Rajya would be established under the Congress Government and the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi would come true. But on the contrary we see that the so called Ram Rajya has been turned into a Raban Rajya by our Police men.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

*** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय,

मैं जानता हूँ और शायद हमारे मंत्री महोदय भी जानते हैं कि हमारे पुलिस विभाग का काम क्या है? वह किसलिये है? मंत्री महोदय ने इस विभाग के लिये ३.७६ करोड़ रुपये मांग रहे हैं? और हम भी यह बड़ी रकम उनके हाथमें सौंप रहे हैं। किंतु यह बड़ी रकम उनके हाथों सौंपते हुए हम यह भी जानना चाहते हैं कि आज पुलिस विभाग का काम कैसा चल रहा है? उससे जनता का क्या लाभ हो रहा है? उससे जनता की कौसी सेवा हो रही है?

इस विभागके कर्मचारियों के स्वभाव चरित्र और कार्य पटुता का एक सुन्दर चित्र श्रीभट्टाचार्य महोदय ने सदन के सामने खूब शब्दोंमें रखा है। इस जापण की अयोग्यता के कई उदाहरण श्रीभट्टाचार्यजी ने आपनोंगों के सामने रखा है। मेरे पास भी ऐसे बहुत से उदाहरण हैं।

हम इस विभागको करीब ४ करोड़ रुपये देने जा रहे हैं। यह रूपया हमारी जनता से कर के रूपमें भिता है। हम चाहते हैं कि इस रूपये का सदुपयोग हो। हमारी पुलिस ईमानदार, और सच्चे हो। पुलिस जनता की सेवा करने में कोई कसर उठा न रखें। पुलिस मजबूत हो। पुलिस अपने दिलको साफ़ करें। इसके लिये अगर जरूरत पड़े तो पुलिस अपनी लाल टोपी को भी बदल दें। इसके बदले सफ़ेद टोपी को अपनावें। हम चाहते हैं कि पुलिस विभाग के कर्मचारियों में कोई झूठी न रहे।

श्रीभट्टाचार्य महोदयने गौहाटी के बारेमें कई उदाहरण रखे हैं। इसके अलावा फांसी बाजार के महावीर मंदिरके सामने और एक छोटी सी गली है जहाँ १५।१६ ऐसी लड़कियाँ हैं जिनका चरित्र बहुत ही लज्जाजनक है, जिनका पेशा अति घृणनीय है। ऐसा स्थान केवल गौहाटीमें ही है, ऐसी बात नहीं। हर जगह ऐसे स्थान हैं। किंतु बड़े ही अफसोस की बात है कि हमारे पुलिसवाले इन बातोंको जानते हुए भी इनका कोई प्रतिकार नहीं करते हैं। हम चाहते हैं कि पुलिस इन चीजों को देखें। और उनका उचित प्रतिकार करके जनता की भलाई करें।

पुलिस विभाग के कर्मचारियों की झूठियों का परिचय मोटर या बस के हर यात्री को प्राप्त होता है। यह एक दैनन्दिन घटना है कि माल गाड़ी में ही ५०।६० आदमी सफर करते हैं। पुलिस की आखों के सामने ऐसी घटना होती है। मगर हमारी पुलिस उसके लिये कोई कानूनी कारवाई नहीं करती है। आप जानते हैं कि किसी माल गाड़ी में इस तरह ५०।६० आदमीयों का चढ़ना कितना खतरनाक है। मैं अपनी व्यक्तिगत अभिज्ञतासे ये बातें कह रहा हूँ। सरकार अगर इन बातों की तहकीकात करें तो सरकार को पूरा पता लग जायेगा।

Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra): प्रतिकार के लिये कोई सुझाव भी दीजिये।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI: मैं तो अपना सुझाव ही पेश कर रहा हूँ। मैंने कहा है कि पुलिस की बुराइयोंका, उनकी झूठियों का प्रतिकार होना चाहिये। इसके लिये जरूरत हो तो पुलिस की लाल टोपी हटाकर सफ़ेद टोपी का प्रवर्तन करना चाहिये।

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: दिल भी साफ़ होना चाहिये।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Moronji): जी हाँ, उनका दिल साफ़ होना बहुत ही जरूरी है।

Shri GURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : सफेद टोपी कांग्रेस की हो जायेगी।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery) : जो नहीं, सफेद टोपी कांग्रेस की नहीं है। वह गांधीजी की टोपी है।

मेरा कहना है कि पुलिस खाते दी गयी इस बड़ी रकमका सदुपयोग होना चाहिये। इसके लिये आवश्यक हो तो पुलिस विभाग के लिये अभिन्न लोगोंकी कोई उपदेस्ता समिति होनी चाहिये जो समय समय पर पुलिस की बृटियोंपर प्रकाश डालें और उन्हें दूर करने के लिये अपना मुझाव पेश करें। ऐसा करें तो पुलिस विभाग की बृटियाँ दूर हो सकती हैं। पुलिस जनता की भलाई कर सकती है।

हमने देखा है कि माल गाड़ियों के लिये (goods, trucks) सिर्फ आदमियों की licence है। Driver, Handiman तथा चार और सहायक। किंतु इस और किसीका ध्यान नहीं है। ये लोग अक्सर गैरकानूनी तौरपर ५०।६० आदमी चढ़ाकर व्यापार करते हैं। हमें ताज्जुब होता है कि वह भी पुलिस की आँखों के बिलकुल सामने। सबसे बड़ा खेद और लज्जाका विषय यह है कि इन गाड़ियों की Front seat में Police का कोई Sub-Inspector और सिपाही भी बैठकर जाते हैं। इसतरह पुलिसवाले ही गैर कानूनी काम करने के लिये सहायता करते हैं और वे खुद उनमें शामिल होते हैं। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार या तो इन माल गाड़ियों को भी ५०।६० आदमी बिठाकर ले जाने के लिये licence दे दें या इन गाड़ियोंपर सख्त कारवाई करें। क्यों कि इन गाड़ियोंसे हमारी गरीब जनता की जान व मालपर बहुत बड़ा खतरा हर हमेशा दिखाई पड़ता है।

हमारे मित्र श्रीभट्टाचार्यजीने जुवे के मुतल्लिक भी कहा है। जुवा का सर्वनाश केवल गौहाटी शहर में ही है यह बात नहीं। यह तो हमारे देश के कोने कोने में पहुंच कर हमारी गरीब जनता का सर्वनाश कर रहा है। इस बारेमें मैं सरकार का ध्यान विशेष रूपसे हमारे नेपाली भाई बस्नेवाले स्थानों की और आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। नेपाली इलाकोंमें बेरोक टोक जुवे का खेल होता है। इससे उन्हें बहुत हानि होती है। मुझे मालूम है कि इस जुवे के कारण कई नेपाली परिवार बरबाद हो रहे हैं। मुझे बड़े दुख के साथ कहना पड़ रहा है कि एक नेपाली भाई पान बेचके ३ हजार रुपये लेकर आ रहा था किंतु रास्तेमें जुवेमें वह अपना सारा का सारा रूपया ही हार बैठा। अगर एक किसान अपने सारे वर्ष की सारी कमाई इस तरह खो बैठे तो इससे बढ़कर दुख की बात और क्या हो सकती है। अपने गाढ़े परिश्रम की यह कमाई इस तरह बरबाद हो तो हमारे समाज और देशका क्या कल्याण हो सकता है। भट्टाचार्यजीने कहा है कि दीवाली के दिन ही जुवे का ज्यादा प्रचलन होता है। लेकिन असलमें नेपाली इलाकोंमें यह तो रोजकी बात है। यह बड़े दुख की बात है कि वह भी पुलिस का सहारा लेकर। आशा है सरकार इस और कड़ी दृष्टि दें। और इसे बंद करने के लिये सख्त कारवाई करें।

यह हमारी जनता के ४ करोड़ रूपयेका सवाल है। यह रूपया इस तरह खर्च होना चाहिये कि हमारे जनता की भलाई हो। पुलिसवाले अपना काम अच्छी तरह करें। वे जनता के सच्चे सेवक हों।

आखिर में मैं पुलिस विभागके मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वे जब सफर में जावें तो हर जगह एक एक सप्ताह ठहरने का कार्यक्रम रखें। वे जनता के साथ घूमें। सादे कपड़े में घूमकर वे खुद इस चीजको देखें कि पुलिसवाले अपना काम किस तरह कर रहे हैं। वे खुद जनतासे पुलिसके कर्मचारियों की शिकायत सुनें और पुलिसवालों के साथ के कलंक का को दूर करने की कोशिश करें।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard with deep attention the hon. Members who have taken part in this discussion. Notice of as many as 18 cut motions was given by the hon. Members under this "Head". Personally I am glad for it because this Department has drawn the attention of so many Members of this House. It is a good sign, it is a healthy sign that the hon. Members of the House are watchful and vigilant over this Department; therefore it is expected that this Department may be able to keep straight in the path of sersitude to some extent.

Sir, my Friends have cited various instances of oppression, corruption and inefficiency on the part of the Police. I personally do not deny that this Department is not free from defects. As a matter of fact, no Department of Government is free from defects. There are black-sheep in every Department and in all walks of our life and society. The Police Department cannot, therefore, be free from defects. My Friend, Mr. Jahanuddin, Ahmed said that this Department has become intolerable in the matter of corruption and inefficiency. I am sorry, Sir, I cannot accept this contention of his. Sir, I would like to draw his attention to certain figures in this connection. Last year, we had 28 cases of complaint of corruption against the Police; out of these 28 cases, which were duly enquired into, except 4 cases, for which some evidence was found and on which we have launched prosecution, other cases were found to be without basis. In 5 cases, however, some kind of evidence was forthcoming but it was not considered sufficient for prosecution but, nevertheless, Government have ordered departmental proceedings to be drawn up against the delinquent officers in these five cases. So, Sir, 19 cases out of 28 were found to be baseless, 5 cases had insufficient evidence for launching prosecution (but we have ordered departmental proceedings) and only 4 cases had some evidence on which prosecution could be launched. Therefore, Sir, the contention that this Department is absolutely corrupt, absolutely inefficient, does not hold water. I have already said that I do not hold any brief for the Department; there may be corruption and inefficiency as in every other Department, but I cannot agree that the position has become intolerable because the complaints brought against this big Department, for which about 4 crores of rupees will be spent, numbered only 28 last year.

Then, Sir, my Friend Mr. Bhattacharyya said that we often claim that we are out to establish a welfare State, but on the contrary, the facts and figures prove that we are still in the age of police administration. To him, the Government have not

outgrown the stage when Government functioned only to maintain law and order. He has cited some figures from the Medical and Public Health Department budgets to prove his contention. He said that we were spending less money for those and other nation-building Departments in comparison to the Police Department for which we are going to spend about 4 crores of rupees. Sir, these figures are misleading. If Mr. Bhattacharyya had given the figures of public health dispensaries in a district and compared them with the number of police stations, we could have understood the real position. For his information, I may state, Sir, that the number of dispensaries far outweighs the number of police stations in every part of the State (Shri Gauri Sankar Bhattacharyya : Dispensaries without doctors!). If there are no doctors, the fault is not with the Government. We cannot produce more doctors all at once. As I was saying, Sir, if he compares the number of dispensaries with the number of police stations in a district he will find that the number of dispensaries was three or four times more than the number of Thanas. Therefore, Sir, to say that we have not still outgrown the stage of police administration is not correct. If the matter is looked at from another angle also, we find that in a police station, besides the Sub-Inspector, about 10 to 12 constables are necessary and, therefore, the number of Police personnel goes on mounting, but for a dispensary one Doctor and one Compounder are sufficient. Therefore, if you compare the number of men employed by the Public Health Department and the number of men employed by the Police Department, certainly that will not be a fair comparison. Therefore, Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya's contention that we are not giving due attention, after independence, to nation building Departments like Public Health, Education, etc., is not correct. As a matter of fact, Sir, if my Friend Mr. Bhattacharyya looks into the figures more closely he will find how the expenditure on nation-building Departments like Public Health, Education, Public Works Department, is mounting after independence and if he compares them with the figure for the Police Department, he will be convinced that we are spending more money on nation-building Departments than on Police. Sir, from the figure of Rs.4 crores, if the amount spent for Naga Hills operations are deducted, it comes to almost half (Shri Debeswar Sarmah : More than half for Naga Hills). Thank you. So, Sir, it will be apparent that we are spending much less on Police Department in comparison to other Departments.

Shri JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : May I know wheather the Police force engaged in Naga Hills will be discharged after the operations are over?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) : My friend does not know that we have imported very large number of police force from outside—from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bombay, Bihar and other States. As soon as the operations are over, they will be sent back to their respective states.

Shri KONGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : We read in the papers that Naga Hills would go to N. E. F. A. Why then spend so much money from the State revenues ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. This is not relevant to the discussions.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : My friend, Mr. Talukdar from the Sorbhog Constituency has drawn the attention of the Government to the efficiency of Police in England and compared it with the efficiency of the Police in Assam. Sir, England is a much more progressive country than Assam. Therefore, to compare the Police in England with the Police in our State will lead us nowhere. Sir, I do not deny that the Police force in England is really the most efficient in the world, Sir, the reforms in England were introduced more than a century ago by Lord Robert Peel, when he was the Prime Minister of England. What is our State in comparison to England ? What is our education, what is our economic condition and what is our social progress ? You cannot have such efficient police officers from our society as they have in England. We must also consider that what efficiency and progress is there in England with regard to their policy is due to their having an advanced society and our police cannot at all be compared with the police in England because our social condition are quite opposite of England. Therefore, to compare our police with that of England will not lead us to anywhere. We got our independence only about 10 years back, and prior to that our police were agents of the bureaucratic foreign Government, and that bureaucratic mentality still prevails in the police to some extent. So the bureaucratic mentality bequathed to us by our imperialist masers and which still persits in our police will have to be changed, and made them fit in with the requirements of the time. As a matter of fact we are taking steps to improve the condition of

our police in various ways. Again, if we look, from another point of view at the condition of our police what do we find when we consider their pay and prospect? Our police people are 24 hours' servant, and actually what pay and emoluments they are getting? The people in the Police Department are required to deal with all sorts of unpalatable things, and their work is very arduous. If we look at the border police force what do we find? I would request my hon. Friends to go to the Garo Hills border where they will find that our border police force who are posted there have to perform their duties under very extraordinary and difficult circumstances. The outposts which are in the border areas are infested with insects, flies and mosquitoes and they are keeping guard over us in most unfavourable conditions and living separated from their wives, children, relatives and friends for a pretty long time. They are to carry out effective steps in guarding the people in our borders and in so doing they even do not get full meals very often. They are to deal with dacoits, they are to deal with cut-throats and ante-social people and what they get in return. A very meagre pay. I therefore like to draw the attention of my honourable Friend, Shri Talukdar that he cannot but find a great difference if he compares the condition of our police in Assam with the condition prevailing in England. However, we are not satisfied with the condition obtaining in our country regarding our police. We want to reform them. But for that we will require time and we will spend money.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister while replying address the Chair and not the hon. Members?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Alright, Sir.

Then, Sir, if we could get more money we can readily remove some of the defects which is prevalent in the police administration. It is very easy to say that the Police Department is not efficient. We should not forget while saying so that what we inherited from the British Bureaucratic Government in our police has to be changed with a view to fit in with our welfare State.

Then somebody referred to the Criminal Investigation Department of the Police and told that it is not efficient. Mr. Bhattacharyya has drawn my attention to this point. Yes, Sir, I agree that this Department is not so efficient as we

desired it to be. Therefore, we are taking steps to improve the morale of the Department by various means. We are contemplating to send some people from this Department to get training at Lal Bazar in Calcutta. The Government of India is also initiating a move to start a Detective Training College in New Delhi to which we are contemplating to send a good number of police officers for training in that college. We are also trying to improve the condition of this Department by giving more intensive training to police officers at Dergaon Police Training College. I feel by taking these steps the efficiency of the Department will be increased to some extent.

After this I would like to reply to the specific points raised by my hon. Friends Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed as well Shri Ghanashyam Talukdar for which they have drawn specific attention of the Government to the serious state of affairs that prevails in Sorbhog and Tarabari area. My hon. Friend, Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed, has told that the Officer-in-charge of Sorbhog Thana, * * * has instigated some murders and they are serious charges.

Mr. SPEAKER: I had already given the ruling that the names of the persons should not be brought in and as such I propose that this portion of the proceedings should be expunged from the proceedings of the day.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Sir, for the information of the House I would like to say that as many as three M.L.As from Barpeta and Tarabari have brought these allegations against the Officer-in-charge before a very senior officer. When the senior officer wanted them to give the information in writing they told him that they would be satisfied with mere transfer of the officer from there. Sir, when serious allegations are made against any officer, this allegations must be enquired into.

As a matter of fact that Police Officer of ours told him that justice would not be met merely by transfer of this officer. Because if he was really such a bad man, transfer of this person alone, would not meet the ends of justice, and therefore the allegations should be thoroughly enquired into. And as a matter of fact orders for necessary enquiry have already been passed.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): May I know, Sir, whether the enquiry would be made by that officer himself or by some one else after removing him?

***Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): I do not understand, Sir, why the enquiry may not be instituted even when that police officer is still there. After all, the enquiry will be instituted by a competent officer who I feel cannot be influenced by a Daroga. Therefore enquiry has been already ordered and my Friend should have the patience to wait and see the results.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): Does the Hon'ble Minister know that these Darogas are more powerful in village than the Hon'ble Minister himself?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: Yes, Sir, there was a time when they were so. But that time has long past, and my information now is that our hon. Members in this House are in these days still more powerful.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: We are powerful in the House only under the protection of the hon. Speaker.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: Then my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, from Gauhati has referred to the question of prostitution. I would have been glad if the hon. Member, instead of bringing this matter before the House, would have referred to me personally as soon as he saw these things. I would have taken action earlier, I would have called for an enquiry by some officers.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): I said, Sir, these things have been going on with active participation of the Police.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: Might be, Sir, I do not deny it. But I assure the hon. Member that I will have an enquiry made into the matter.

Then he said that open gambling has been resorted to by some people at Gauhati, and a number of Police constables are a party to it. I do not deny this also. I propose to look into this matter in due course.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panari): এজন মন্ত্রীয়ে নোৱাৰিব, গোটেই M.L.A. সকলক Power দিব লাগে বাবে অনেকুৱা case বোৰ pending হৈ থাকিব নোৱাৰে।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Another very serious matter referred to by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, is about a police-constable who was found in the company of a girl somewhere in the jungle in the evening. The village people brought them out of the jungle and took a declaration and was probably taken to task.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. Member did not say that he was taken to task.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : A written document was taken from the constable and then he was allowed to go back. I think, Sir, my Friend had already stated that he had brought this to the notice of the Officer-in-charge at Gauhati. Sir, I shall personally look into this matter again.

His another allegation is that a labour Sirdar of Gauhati town, a very important man, is still at large in the heart of the Gauhati town, and in spite of warrants having been issued about a year and a half back, Police has not yet been able to arrest him. I shall call for a report about this case.

As regards the Hajo man who was alleged to be entrapped in a dacoity case and who was in the jail for a month and a half and was ultimately set free. My Friend himself admits that it was a case of conspiracy on the part of the rival party which was against this man, and that the rival party was supported by the Officer-in-charge. I think no evidence will be forthcoming to connect the Officer-in-charge in the conspiracy. Sir, there were two rival parties connected in this case. One party might have been assisted by him as against the other party. But to connect the Officer-in-charge there is a very difficult thing as his influence may be hidden from the public view.

My Friend, Shri Patwari, from Panery drew the attention of the Government to the fact that although Government have spent a huge sum worth Rs.4 crores for Police, we do not get sufficient efficiency from the Police commensurating with the expenditure incurred in the matter of detection of crime, hauling up of offenders, etc., etc. But I would like to draw the attention of my Friend to certain things. So far as the efficiency of the Police is concerned, this can be better judged if the number of cases detected by the Police, the number conviction or acquittal are taken into consideration. If these things are compared with those of the other States, then it will be seen

that we are in a much better position. We have so many jails in our State. In some districts there are more than one jail, and you will find that these jails are full with criminals—I am not speaking of undertrials. Why are these people in jails if not for commission of offences? And who has sent these persons to jails if not by our Police? In the face of these glaring facts, if we say that our Police is not efficient, it will be far from the truth. Does this not show that our Police is doing its duty, and doing it commendably well?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): পাড়ী হল উত্তর গুৱাহাটীৰ নালিক কৰিছে মোক, এনেটক ১২ টা cases মোৰ ওপৰত উঠিছিল, কিন্তু সেই ১২ টা case এই dismiss হৈ গল।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): I have never said that all Police cases end in conviction. It cannot be from the very nature of things. Police may only send up cases, but our magistrates are not supposed to act upon the dictates of the Police. Magistrates require sufficient evidence before they can pronounce any punishment. Cases may be true on many occasions, but for want of evidence or for insufficient evidence, many persons sent up by Police may get acquittal. In fact, we find most of the cases sent up by the Police are true but for want of evidence many of the persons sent up are acquitted.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Speaker's ruling to expunge certain portion from the speech of the Member representing Karimganj-North on the Police Budget making allegations against certain persons.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I ask the Hon'ble Home Minister to continue his speech, I would like to make an announcement. While the hon. Member from Karimganj was speaking, he referred to police reports and his reference in a particular case was definitely an aspersion on certain hon. Members of this House. I therefore have directed that that part of his speech should be expunged from the proceedings of the House.

I also gave the ruling based on the practice of Lok Sabha that before any defamatory or incriminatory allegation is made against any person in the House, the Member shall give previous intimation to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply. On the basis of this ruling, I have directed that all names of persons against whom allegations of the type mentioned above were made, should be expunged from the proceedings of the House and, therefore, no reference should be made to such names by the Hon'ble Minister in his reply.

Demands for Grants Grant No.14 (29—Police) (contd.)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA, (Minister, Home): Sir, my Friends from Karimganj as well as from Sorbhog have cast aspersion on the Congress organisation that the Congress Government, in the interest of the Congress organisation during the last elections, engaged police personnel to do canvassing work for the Congress. Sir, these allegations are absolutely without any foundation and I can prove that it is so. Sir my Friends all along have been alleging that policemen are a bad set of people, they are corrupt, inefficient and so on and so forth. Now, Sir, it is common knowledge to all of us that canvassing by such people who are bad, corrupt, inefficient and dishonest will defeat the very purpose for which the canvassing is meant, it will go against the very interest of those people who engage them to canvass. So if the Congress Government in the interest of Congress organisation engaged such policemen to canvass for them in the elections, it will be detrimental to their own cause. So why should they do it?

Something was mentioned by my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, that, while the Chief Minister visited Karimganj, we had to take recourse to imposing Section 144. He asked why it should be like that? Sir, the facts are like this. From the report of the Deputy Commissioner and other officers in Karimganj it was clear that the situation was almost out of control because some local leaders in Karimganj wanted to hold meetings and demonstration of the refugees and information was sent to the refugees from all parts of the subdivision to come to the town in their thousands to make a mass demonstration before the Chief Minister. Now, in the meetings that were addressed by several important members of the public of Karimganj, very exciting speeches were delivered so much so that in those speeches the refugees were urged not only to make

demonstrations and processions in the town of Karimganj, but that they should also surround the Circuit House where the Chief Minister was staying and that the Chief Minister should not be allowed to come out of the Circuit House until all demands of the refugees are agreed to and accepted by the Chief Minister in toto.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) : That is not a fact, Sir. It is exaggerated.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) : These are the reports we received from the local officers.

So, Sir, when that was the situation, in order to prevent breach of peace, the local officers there, who were entrusted with maintenance of law and order, thought it wise to promulgate Section 144 in the interest of peace and law and order and also in the interest of the refugees themselves. In this connection I must say, Sir, to the credit of the refugees, that during the last 7 or 8 years they have been a very disciplined people and they had never acted as was wanted of them at Karimganj recently, because they knew that it will go against their own interest if they behave in the manner they were instigated to. So, Sir, under such circumstances, Section 144 had to be promulgated at Karimganj at that time.

Now, Sir, I should come to the incident of Lathi charge which the police had to resort to on one occasion at Karimganj to prove the state of commotion and excitement there. A kind of 'fancy' dress match or something like that was organised by the Girls' School in Karimganj, on the day previous to Chief Minister's visit. Now, during the function, some boy students and some other persons tried to enter into the enclosure without permission.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : It was an open function, Sir, and everybody were invited by the Sub-divisional Officer.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : It was a function arranged by the Girls' School where only invitees were allowed to go. Everybody cannot be welcomed to such a function which was organised by the girl students. It cannot be said that everybody was entitled to go there as if there was no decency and decorum. There was the limit of space also.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : It was not a function of girls, it was a State function.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Shri GAUISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): All that he wanted to say is that it was not a function of girls, it was a 15th August function.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Might be but such a state of commotion and excitement was prevailing in the town prior to the Chief Minister's visit that Police had no other alternative but to take recourse to lathi charge to prevent the intruders from entering there and creating trouble. Added to that, when public speeches were being made by leaders there, to surround the Chief Minister and not to allow him to go there, was it at all conducive to public interest not to take any preventive action? In such a state of commotion and excitement, the local authority entrusted with the maintenance of law and order, had to prevent further deterioration of the situation by promulgating Section 144 in public interest, in the interest of law and order and in the interest of the refugees themselves, whose interest they wanted to safeguard.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: On a point of information, whether the people wanted to surround the Chief Minister out of love? (*Loud laughter*).

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : As I have already made my point clear, these people wanted to surround the Chief Minister not out of any love for him but to extract something out of him by force, just to make him yield to some unacceptable demands of the refugees. They wanted to do all this under advice of certain persons. My Friend, Mr. Das, has stated that the Chief Minister promised an enquiry into the allegations made to him by my Friend. As a matter of fact, my Friend, Mr. Das, had sent him a letter containing some allegations.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): On being requested by him.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: There the Chief Minister said that when all these allegations came under the purview of certain sections of the Penal Code and when all these allegations were made against some officers, it was better that recourse might be had to the court of law by instituting criminal cases.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have requested the Hon'ble Minister that he should address the Chair and not the hon. Member.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): I made a mistake, I am sorry. What I wanted to say is that the Chief Minister sent a letter to him that it would be better for those people to go to the court of law when they have got clear evidence of assault. There was no necessity for an order of enquiry by the Chief Minister.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) On a point of personal explanation. The Chief Minister never informed me that we should go to the law court. I remember *he gave an assurance in the presence of above 50 people in the Circuit House that he would make an enquiry.* He sent for me and told me if these things had happened we should give him a written statement so that he might have it enquired judicially by an officer on whom we had full confidence. This is the statement made by the Chief Minister in presence of all sections of people, viz., Congress President, M.L.As., etc. and when I gave a letter to the Chief Minister, he had not the courtesy to send a reply.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: The hon. Member was duly informed that when such allegations were there against particular persons and when all these allegations were covered by certain sections of the Penal Code, and when evidence was there, it was better that instead of having a judicial enquiry the matter might well be judicially tried. Instead of a judicial enquiry, there should be a judicial trial and the affected persons might go to the court of law. In advising my hon. Friend like this, the Chief Minister surely did a better thing.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, as a matter of rule, when a statement is made by a Member of the House, it should be taken as correct.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order, the House will come to a decision about what the hon. Member has submitted.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: Lastly, Sir, most of the Members have said about the marked deterioration of efficiency and detective ability of the Police. I have already made a statement contradicting this allegation. There has not been a marked deficiency in detective ability of our Police, nor there has been any marked deterioration in the efficiency of our Police. Of course, there has been some amount of deterioration, there is no doubt about it, but that does not mean that there has been marked deterioration.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): What is the definition of marked deterioration?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): I would request the hon. Member to consult the dictionary which is easily available to him.

Sir, yesterday I had been to Nowgong and I sent for the Superintendent of Police to ascertain the crime position in our district. He came to me and told me that only very recently there had been two smart detection of crimes. Some notorious dacoits were caught with guns in their possession by the Police and the villagers combined when they were committing dacoity. The other instance is that as many as 7 persons were concealing themselves with stolen property in a particular locality of Nowgong. The Police surrounded the house. The dacoits ran out and the Police chased them.

The dacoits jumped into the Kalang river and the Police also jumped there and apprehended the dacoits. All this will go to prove that there has not been marked deterioration in the efficiency of detection ability of our Police.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): May I point out one instance? One Datta was beaten to death at Amguri Police Station and his dead body was buried somewhere.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: I do not hold brief for the Police and say that all cases can be detected. Nowhere in the world it could be done.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: He was arrested and brought to the Police Station and was beaten to death. At night his dead body was buried.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: I am coming to that. I have got all information about that. Let me proceed undisturbed.

Mr. SPEAKER: If any hon. Member wants any clarification, he may do so after the Minister finishes his speech but it will be unbecoming and contrary to the dignity of the House if the Minister is not allowed to proceed with his speech without interruption.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Sir, the other day I got a wire from Mr. Bora, M.L.A., from North Lakhimpur, where he said that there were dacoities in that Subdivision and afterwards, when I went to Dibrugarh in connection with my treatment, I enquired of the Superintendent of Police and he informed me that all persons connected with the dacoities were caught.

Similarly, it is known to the hon. Members that a big inter-district gang was smartly caught by the Police. This gang was creating havoc in two districts.

So far as the Amguri case is concerned, it is *subjudice*. It is at present being investigated.

My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, said something about the unfortunate happening in Shillong when a young boy, aged about 16 years, lost his life. His dead body was found after a few days and it was suspected that there was some foul play on the person of this young man. The Police sent the dead body for *post mortem* examination and the report of the doctor was that it was a case of heart failure. As the Police was not satisfied with that report, they sent the boy's viscera to Calcutta for chemical examination. From the report of the chemical examination, it was found that the viscera contained some amount of alcohol and nothing else. Still the case was not given up and was being investigated to find out whether it was a case of murder or suicide. As soon as the father of the boy gave the information to the Police that the boy was missing, Police sent immediate information to all the Police Stations in the State to be alert and not only that, the Police gave information also to the Calcutta Police to find out if the boy had gone to his relations in Calcutta. So, the allegation that the Police did not take any steps is untrue and in fact the Police took all the steps that was necessary and after the *post mortem* report was given, the Police was not satisfied and sent his viscera to Calcutta and although the report from Calcutta said that there was no other reason for his death except taking alcohol drink, the Police did not give up the case and were still pursuing it.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): May I get one information from the Minister? Whether one Gogoi was arrested by the Golaghat Police and he was brought to the Police Station and he died there in the police custody?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) : One man, named Kanduram Gogoi with another man named, Bhebel Duara, were arrested in connection with a case under section 302 at a distance of ten miles from Golaghat town. While they were being escorted to the Police Station, this man, Kamduram Gogoi, suddenly fell into a fit of fainting and the policemen there gave water on his head and he recovered and then he was brought to the Thana and kept in the lock-up with four other persons. Just before dawn a constable on duty went to the Officer-in-charge and informed him that this Kanduram Gogoi was suffering from some pain and was dashing his head against the floor and walls. When the Officer-in-charge came, he found that the man was almost in a collapsing condition and after a few minutes the man died. An unnatural case of death was registered and enquiry was carried out by a Magistrate and he took evidence of the other undertrial prisoners in that lock-up, evidence of the man's relations and the sentry on duty and the magistrate came to the conclusion that this man suffered from epileptic fits and he might have died of it. In the magistrate's report there was no evidence of violence on the person of that man except some injuries on the head. Then his dead body was sent for *post mortem* examination. The doctor gave his opinion that the death was due to heart failure which was due to concussion of the brain which was caused by injuries on his head. Whether these injuries on his head were due to some fits or due to violent acts of some person is being enquired into by the Police now.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : On a point of clarification, may I know whether it is a fact that in the Shillong incident the dead body was found after seven days from the date of missing ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : No, Sir, not after seven days.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Is it not a fact that the boy was missing from 6th April, 4 P.M. and the dead body was found on 13th April, 12 noon ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : I cannot say it now.

At any rate, the Police was fully vigilant. I do not like, for obvious reasons, to disclose the Police report in the public interest, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: This may be shown to the hon. Member from Gauhati.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Yes, Sir, that can be done.

Sir, the Police here took extra precautions as soon as the matter was reported to them, as stated by me before. As soon as the report was received that the boy was missing, the Police made enquiries in all the probable places of visits that were used to be made by the boy.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister should be brief.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA: Yes, Sir, I have only two more points to complete my reply. Sir, with regard to the question of deficiency in the matter of Police Administration, I mean the charge about deficiency in their detecting ability, in their discipline, I would like to inform the hon. Members that Government is alive to the situation and whatever is possible is being done in this matter. Where any improvement is necessary, we are taking necessary action. But it should be remembered that the improvement cannot be effected in a day. The other day, I convened a conference of the Inspector General of Police, Deputy Inspector General of Police and other senior Police Officers, had a discussion and decided to take some steps to raise the morale and efficiency and standard of discipline of the Police, specially in the lower rank where it may be admitted the standard is not so high as it should be. We hope, the suggested measures would bring about some improvement; it will increase their detective abilities and discipline, when these measures are brought into operation.

With these observations, Sir, I request my hon. Friend, Shri Tajuddin Ahmed, to withdraw his Cut Motion, so that the Demand may be passed by the House.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, I want to point out the congested condition of the Gauhati-Shillong Road near Barabazar. Carts, trucks and cars are parked by the side of the road and it is very unsafe for the people to move on the road. The Police constables posted on duty there, seems to be inadequate to cope with the volume of traffic duty. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to post more constables on duty there so that the position may improve.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member for bringing this to my notice. But I am afraid I do not understand how posting of more constables on duty will improve the situation. As all the hon. Members of this House know, the roads in almost all the towns in Assam are narrow. Unless they are widened, this position will not improve and as a matter of fact, with a view to effect some improvement, I mean with a view to widen the roads in the towns, we have made some provision. We hope when that is done, the position will improve.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: In the meantime, we have to undertake some safety measures.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : That will be done, Sir.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Is it a fact that about a month back, one man was arrested at Tangla, he was taken to the Police Station, kept there for two days and two nights and after he was given a gruelling he was sent to the jail where he collapsed that night ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Sir, we have received a complaint and we have ordered for an enquiry.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you want to withdraw your Cut Motion ?

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the total provision of Rs.3,78,38,500 under Grant No.14, Major head—29.—Police, at page 112 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3,78,38,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

On being pressed, a division was taken inside the House by asking the Members to rise in their places and the following hon. Members voted in favour of the Cut Motion :—

Ayes—23

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Thuamluaia | 13. Shri Tajuddin Ahmed. |
| 2. Shri Emerson Momin | 14. Shri Biswanath Upadhaya. |
| 3. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya. | 15. Shri Brojo Mohon Roy |
| 4. Shri Ghanashyam Talukdar | 16. Shri Hamdhon Mohan Haplaugar. |
| 5. Shri Harison Momin | 17. Shri Henry Cotton |
| 6. Shri Jahan Uddin Ahmed | 18. Rav. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy. |
| 7. Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah. | 19. Shri Jor Manik Siem of Myllem. |
| 8. Shri Nilmoney Barthakur | 20. Shri Larsing Khyriem. |
| 9. Shri Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua. | 21. Shai Mathias Tudu. |
| 10. Shri Ranendra Mohan Das | 22. Shri Hiralal Patwary. |
| 11. Shri Sahadat Ali | 23. Capt. William A. Sangma. |
| 12. Dr. Srihari Das | |

Noes—43.

The Cut Motion was lost.

Mr. SPEAKER : So far Government benches are concerned, I don't think it is necessary to take their names. Their name are legion.

Now I put the original Motion.

The question is that a sum of Rs.3,78,38,500 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 "29.—Police".

(The Motion was adopted.)

Grant No.45

(63.—Extraordinary Charges)

Mr. SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Chief Minister is indisposed, therefore, Shri Siddinath Sarma will move it.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, P. W. D.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.3,000 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, "63.—Extraordinary Charges".

Mr. SPEAKER : There is no Cut Motion. So I put the Motion. The question is that a sum of Rs.3,000 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 "63.—Extraordinary Charges".

(The Motion was adopted.)

Grant No.3

(8.—State Excise Duties)

Shri CHATRA SING TERON (Minister, Excise) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor, of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.17,47,000 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, "8.—State Excise Duties".

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.17,47,000 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 "8.—State Excise Duties".

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :
Sir, only one Cut Motion will be moved by Rev. Roy.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.17,47,000 under Grant No.3, Major head, 8.—State Excise Duties, at page 18 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.17,47,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my object in moving this Cut Motion is not to criticise the Government but that Government should declare what their policy is now with regard prohibition. There has been a policy of progressive prohibition here in our State. Sir, we are very anxious that we should have quick result, but there is some how or other an impression created in the minds of the people that the Government of India and some State Governments do not want to have prohibition any more. They would rather, somehow or other, go slowly, they don't want to go quickly. Sir, we as well as the people outside, do not want to retard the progress of prohibition ; we have been fighting for total prohibition. I am sure, Sir, the whole country will bless the Government for the sake of stopping this evil of drinking liquor. Sir, my policy, when I was a Minister of Government, was to extend this prohibition for Kamrup to the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills and then go on extending to other districts also so as to bring prohibition throughout the whole State in about five years. Why I wanted to extend it first to the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills ? Because I believe, Sir, and know that the large majority of the people in this district is against drinking. There is an idea among some people that the people in the Khasi Hills are drinking terribly. This is wrong ; the habit is confined to a very small portion of the population. Sir, you know that in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, we have the matriarchal system of society, the number of women is over 1,74,000 and the number of men is about 1,86,000. And, Sir, all the women in the Khasi Hills are against drinking. Even women keeping liquor shops as a business proposition are against it ; they do not drink, perhaps one in ten thousand may drink. The women in Khasi Hills, who are engaged in various trade and business and who look after the household and the children, do not want their husbands or their sons and their brothers to take liquor. That is the feeling in the Khasi Hills. Then, apart from women, who are against drinking, there is a host of good people who are against liquor drinking ; the religious

institutions are against the liquor habit. Out of 1,86,000 men, more than half will be against drinking. Then, Sir, think of the multitude of other people, the little children from one to ten years of age or say 14 years of age whom we have to take care of and protect from this monstrous evil. We have to see that this new generation is not ruined by this pernicious habit. The State has a responsibility for these people and we have to protect them from this evil. Sir, we have to be guided by what the large majority of the people feel and not by those few people who are used to drinking and who are spoiling the society. This evil must be rooted out from our midst. Therefore, Sir, it was my great desire that prohibition should be extended to the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills. Unfortunately, somehow or other, the matter was referred to the District Council and the District Council delayed and delayed and raised this and that question. But I submit, Sir, the Government has power according to law to extend prohibition to the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills and it must be bold enough to do so. There are lots of good people, who will support it and the religious institutions will also support Government, the women will bless the Government. The Government should spend money in order to help our Khasi Hills Tribal people to get rid of the drinking habit. I want to know whether Government will seriously take this matter into consideration and take steps to extend prohibition to the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills. I know, Sir, that some people will be against it, but, Sir, whatever reforms are made in the country, there will be some people against them, but I am sure most of the people in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills will be very thankful to Government if they take steps to eradicate this drinking evil. There are many ways in which prohibition can be effected. Government will get the full co-operation of the women and the large majority of the male population. In every village, organisations may be built up which will protect the people against smuggling of liquor in their midst. We may have organisation of men and women in every locality to catch hold of smugglers and report to the Government. Powers may be given to these organisations to arrest the smugglers. There are several ways in which we can do it, if we want it seriously for the sake of helping the people. There is no use in pointing out difficulties. Difficulties will be there and have been there whenever we have tried to carry out any reforms for the good of the people. We must overcome those difficulties at any cost and Government will be getting the blessings of the people if they do so. This will demonstrate that the Government of Assam is actually looking after the welfare of the tribal people and they want to raise them up.

Sir, there is an idea that Pachwai and Laopani should be allowed to remain. I was in a great difficulty when, as Minister, I wanted to put down Pachwai in the Kamrup District. There were two sections, one wanted to have it and the other to abolish it. The young people were all against it, but some of the older people said, "We take this little drink, which has some food value and there is only about 3 per cent of poison in Pachwai". Sir, I did not want even one per cent of poison to be put in the food of my children. I would not want them to get drunk and fall to the ground. But after all, the Government then had to make a compromise. We allowed Pachwai to be allowed only for three years after which Pachwai will also be abolished. I say why not earlier? The younger generation are wholly against it. They feel that it is a curse to their people and they want to deliver their people from this curse. I am sure, in this matter Government will get a good deal of support from all quarters. Government may not want to lose money by introduction of prohibition. But may I ask, can any conscientious Government allow this pernicious evil to continue for the sake of its revenue? I remember the terrible fight the people put up against the British, in order to banish this evil from our society. Let that earnestness and enthusiasm be not lost and let it not be said that the National Government was afraid of carrying on this very necessary reform for the sake of money. If you really mean to do it from your heart, you will be able to make it a success.

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

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Is the District Council against prohibition?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: I do not know. The District Council at the present moment does not enjoy the support of the people. After the election, this Council may be no more.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.17,47,000 under Grant No.3, Major head 8.—State Excise Duties, at page 18 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.17,47,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

***Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Excise):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful to our elder statesman, Rev. Nichols-Roy, for his advice given to me, who is rather in a new venture in this respect, particularly for his giving stress

*Speech not corrected.

on pursuing the Government's policy of prohibition more vigorously. Sir, Government have taken up a policy of gradual prohibition, because there are certain difficulties as regards introduction of total prohibition in this peculiar State of Assam, particularly, in view of certain peculiar circumstances. If we look carefully then we shall find that the nature of composition on the population of this State is a bit peculiar from any other State in India. If we examine more closely then we shall find that one-third of the population of the State is integrated in respect of their customs and other usage with which liquor and wine are closely connected. Under the circumstances, it is necessary that the will of the people should be taken into consideration. Then, as I have already stated, liquor and wine are closely connected, particularly in relation to the tribal people of this State living both in the hills and in the plains, and integrated with their life, and at the same time, as Rev. Roy has referred to, that there is large section of the people who are not used to it. I quite agree with this view of Rev. Roy. This is due to the particular endeavour of the Missionaries to implant the idea on the tribal people not to take wine and liquor. To take wine is a crime to God. But still there are large sections of people who are still addicted to take wine and liquor, and who are still with such usages. Therefore, when wine and liquor are closely integrated with the life of the people, it is necessary that there should be social reform with a view to eradicate the habit of taking liquor and wine by our people by the leaders. Unless the leaders help Government to make total prohibition, they will not succeed in this matter. In this respect, Sir, I welcome Rev. Roy's pious and good wishes.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, do I take that the reform should be left to the people and Government will not do anything by legislation?

***Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Excise):** It is not the responsibility of the leaders only, but at the same time it is also the responsibility of the Government.

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): Sir, Government is different from the people.

***Shri CHATRASING TERON:** I don't think so.

Again reference has been made by Rev. Roy to the matter of extending prohibition from Kamrup district to the Autonomous United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district. The hon. Members of this House know that the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district is an autonomous district where there are certain peculiarities regarding the application of the excise rules except the Jowai Subdivision and a greater part, particularly, in the Khasi States where the Excise Act is not applied. It is only applied to the Municipal area of Shillong and an area of another five miles. So, Sir, if we are to introduce the total prohibition then we will have to face great difficulty to extend the Excise Act.

***Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Sir, on a point of information. Why the Jaintia people have been separated in this respect from the Khasi people ?

***Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Excise) :** Previously that was not made. But subsequently when the Constitution came into force, as you know, that in recognition of the fact of closely integrated aspect of the use of liquor in the life of the tribal people, the Constitution itself has left the matter relating to Pachwai to the District Council. So there are certain difficulties immediately to extend the prohibition into the Khasi Hills district.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Sir, the intention was not to extend the Liquor Prohibition Act relating to Pachwai, but regarding distilled liquor. Pachwai will be dealt with by the District Council and the distilled liquor by the Government of Assam.

***Shri CHATRASING TERON :** We find that the distilled liquor is produced from Pachwai. If we cannot do away with Pachwai, then it is very difficult to do away with the distilled liquor when distilled liquor is made out of Pachwai, if restriction is not imposed on the preparation of Pachwai. So it is up to the District Council to impose restriction or control preparation of Pachwai as Pachwai has to be dealt with by the District Council. If no restriction is imposed on Pachwai, it would be very difficult for the Government to control illicit distillation of liquor from Pachwai. In every house in Autonomous District, Pachwai is made. So, Sir, I submit these things for consideration of Rev. Roy, and for his advice.

With the explanation which I have put forward, I request that the hon. Member will be pleased to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, I want to ask the Hon'ble Minister, as the Minister is the people for the Government, whether the Government will extend the Prohibition Act to the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, if the District Council.....

***Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Excise):** I cannot say immediately. Because it is very difficult to say immediately as to what achievement the Government will have even by introducing prohibition in Kamrup district.

Rev J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: That is the impression with me also, as the Government is going very slow, and not so speedy in carrying on prohibition.

***Shri CHATRASING TERON :** So, slow and steady wins the race.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): Plains area বৰজাৰ মাৰ্জতে কিছুমান লোকানৰ settlement দিছে ; সেই বিষয়ে গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট চিন্তা কৰিছেনে ?

***Shri CHATRASING TERON:** If there be any such excise shop within the radius of two miles from the market place, if the matter is brought to the notice of the Government surely the Government will look into the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. Member, Rev. Roy, propose to withdraw the Cut Motion ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : No, Sir, I am not satisfied with the slowness of the Government in this matter.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): So, Sir, the policy of prohibition has been initiated by him.

Mr. SPEAKER : No reference of any action in any matter taken by any *ex*-Minister of the Government should be made in this House.

Do I understand that Rev. Roy wants to press the Motion for the vote of the House ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that the total provision of Rs.17,47,000 under Grant No. 3, Major head 8 — State Excise Duties, at page 18 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of whole grant of Rs.17,47,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(The Cut Motion was lost.)

I now put the original motion.

The question is that a sum of Rs.17,47,000 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 "8.—Excise Duties".

(The Motion was adopted.)

Grant No. 5

(10.—Forests)

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Forests) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.74,40,000 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 "10.—Forests".

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we do not want to move all the Cut Motions to this Grant. My Friend, Shri Larsingh Khyriem, will move Cut Motion No. 4 tabled in his name and Maulavi Jahan Uddin Ahmed will move the Cut Motion tabled in his name, i.e., Cut Motion No. 7.

Mr. SPEAKER : But they will have to be specific to their respective Cut Motion.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

Yes, Sir, they will confine their observations specifically to their respective Cut Motions.

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.74,40,000 under Grant No. 5, Major head, 10.—Forests, at page 24 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.74,40,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, in bringing this Cut Motion, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the damage done by elephants to the people of Satpator in the Jowai Subdivision. Sir, before the Second World War, there was no elephant in this area. Soon after the war, herds of elephants came to this area and made this area their permanent abode. People of the area request Government every year to find out ways and means to control these animals and prevent them from causing damage to their cultivation. But unfortunately Government have been found to be indifferent to their repeated requests. Last year, as a result, all the standing paddy of the people of Pdengshakap were completely destroyed by these elephants. This fact was brought to the notice of the Government and help is being given to them. Sir, these wild elephants were not satisfied with their act of destruction. But of late killed two persons. The unfortunate victims, one is a woman, when she was working in the field. The second victim was a male person who was working as a night watcher for scaring away the elephants. As a result of this constant threat to human lives, people in the area are very much afraid to carry on their natural avocation of life, namely, paddy cultivation and also cultivation of other food-crops. Sir, at this juncture, when the food position in the country is so bad, it is expected that not a patch of land should be left uncultivated. We know, Sir, elephant is one of the sources of revenue of the State. We know also that it contributes to the economy of the State. But even then let us consider the point very seriously. Hon. Members of the House might not be able to appreciate the magnitude of the problem as most of them come from towns having all the amenities of town life. The wearer only knows where the shoe pinches. Hence, Sir, we cannot allow these animals to destroy our cultivation and kill people. In my opinion, it is the bounden duty of the Government therefore firstly to help the people by

opening Mela and Kheda Sikar, secondly to send Shikaries to shoot these animals and thirdly to give powerful rifles to the local people to frighten and, if necessary, to kill these animals. To me, Sir, these are the only ways by which Government can render effective help to these people. Last year, out of sheer helplessness, these people asked whether these elephants are the property of the Government or not. If they are, it is the duty of the Government to tend them and to control them from carrying on depredation on people's life and property.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.74,40,000 under Grant No. 5, Major head 10—Forests, at page 24 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.74,40,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.74,40,000 under Grant No. 5, Major head 10.—Forests, at page 24 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.74,40,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, the purpose of my moving this Cut Motion is to bring to the notice of the Government the way in which the forest administration at Kachugaon is being run and also the evil effect of ejectment of some of the forest villagers there. In the forest reserve at Kachugaon some ejectments were made recently and as a result of these ejectments, some of the alleged newcomers who were alleged to have entered into the forest reserve and began to settle there, were subjected to inhuman trouble.

Now, Sir, I would like to point out to this House that some of these so-called newcomers, have been staying there for 9 to 10 years and some even for longer period as 12 years or more. These men were shown by the Department as newcomers. I do not know how these newcomers could live there for 12 years without the forest officials noticing them. They managed somehow to live there and I think these people could satisfy the unscrupulous forest officials and could live there. I do not know what are

the means by which they could satisfy the forest officials but I know it and it is a fact that these people have been able to live there for those years. Sir, another miserable story about the forest villagers is that those who live there legally but who could not satisfy the forest officials, are being declared as undesirables. There is no standard for a forest villager being declared undesirable by forest officials. At the whims of these forest officials, sometimes these honest and simple forest villagers are to suffer, simply because they have not been able to satisfy the forest officials.

Sir, there were some ejectments of about 800 families recently. I myself with Shri Mathias Tudu, the hon. Member from Gossaigaon, and also the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, went there to enquire into the matter. On our reaching the forest area, we heard many pitiable stories about these ejectments. On that very night, in which the ejectment was made, people so ejected had to live under the tree with some new-born baby. There was hailstorm and rain that night and that new-born baby expired in the morning due to exposure to rain, storm and cold. There are some more stories, Sir, about these forest villagers. I do not know how many of them are correct but I just want to bring them to the notice of the House because we have heard them from these forest villagers and I believe, Sir, some of them must be true. Because they failed to satisfy the forest officials, they were declared undesirables.

Sir, in the general discussions of the Budget, some Members from the Congress party also discussed about the pitiable condition of the people in the forest reserves. I asked a question as to the facts that these people were treated like beasts. His answer was that he will not go so far. Sir, it is really a fact that these people are not treated like human beings, they are treated like beasts and they have no right to stay in a forest village unless they can satisfy the forest officials somehow or other. Sometimes they are to satisfy the carnal desire of the bad forest officials even. How I shall not discuss, and let there be end of it Sir, afterwards when the Minister went there, finding no other way, we insisted that something should be done for these poor people who have been staying there for years together in the very knowledge of the forest officials whom they declare as newcomers. So there was a compromise and the Conservator of Forests was kind enough to give these people some employment in Tongia cultivation just to give them some relief though temporarily.

Sir, my intention to move this Cut Motion is to bring to the notice of the House as to why these people are declared as newcomers, encroachers when they have been staying there for long years in the very presence of the forest officials. Then, Sir, there we also came to know something about the agents of contractors. There is a plot of land in the Kochugaon Reserve which originally was allotted to the contractors for their employees or agents to stay. Now, in, doing so, these agents, though they were temporary people, have, in course of time, become permanent residents in these plots. Because, Sir, though the contractors changed from time to time, these agents get employment under new contractors as the agents know the forest well and can render expert help to the new contractors with informations about the condition of forest coups, etc.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the hon. Member driving at? He must be brief and he cannot discuss agency system; he must confine to his Motion.

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): I say this, Sir, because these agents have been served with notice for eviction. This agency system has become of a permanent nature, and most of these agents come from East Bengal. Some of them had to bring their families after partition of the country. They are like Pakistani refugees, who have been managing their own affairs as agents of contractors at Kachugaon without putting any pressure on the Government as refugees. As I have said, these agents occupied plots allotted to their old contractors under whom they worked as agents, and they have constructed houses in those plots and some of them purchased the houses from old contractors. When new contractors come, these agents stay on and work under the new contractors and, as I have already mentioned, it has become like permanent occupation for them. These agents are ordered by the Department to be evicted from the plots originally allotted to the contractors under whom they served. But in doing so the officers are not considering the cases of these unfortunate agents who have been the victim of Partition. The Forest Department or officers could have allotted the plots occupied by these agents to their respective contractors under whom these agents are finding employments. A little sympathy, a small consideration on the part of the forest officials, might have solved the problem very easily. But without doing that, these agents are placed at the whims of the officers and those people are being made the victim of eviction. These people who are refugees, and had brought

their families to this place after the partition of the country, are put to enormous difficulties by the eviction notice. Where they are going to remove their families when they have no other place to go immediately? Sir, Kachugaon is not a paradise, that these people are longing for it at any cost. They will be simply glad to remove their families whenever an opportunity comes or whenever they can make alternative arrangement. They deserve human treatment.

Another thing is that, very near the office of the Forest Department at Kachugaon, which will not be more than 100 yards, there is a market-place where some people constructed some shop buildings of semi-permanent nature. These shops were there for the last 5 or 6 years and some of them for many years, but now under some pretext, they are made encroachers and these shopkeepers have also been given notice of ejection. The Department say that this land is under Forest Reserve and these people encroached the land, but, Sir, I can not understand how these houses were constructed so many years ago and in the very nose of all the forest officers who are living at a distance of only 100 yards away and the same is visible day and night from their quarters. If these people are treated as encroachers, what the forest officers were doing when these houses were constructed and I am sure, Sir, with the consent and permission of the Government officials, these constructions were made, otherwise they could not have dared to construct these semi-permanent buildings at all.

These people are also refugees coming from East Bengal. So I would request the Government if they have to be ejected at all, they should be given sufficient time and their case should be treated on a different footing.

With these few words, I commend my Cut Motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs. 74,40,000 under Grant No. 5, Major head 10—Forests, at page 24 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 74,40,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of the Cut Motion just moved by my Friend, I would, also like to make some observations.

In the first instance, I shall make a reference to the attitude of Government towards Garo Hills District Council, in the management of the Unclassed State Forests before the management of the same was transferred to the District Council after its formation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The hon. Member will not be in order if he speaks in support of the Cut Motion about the District Council. He can do so if he speaks generally on the original Motion.

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: All right, Sir, I shall then speak simply about some activities of the State Forest Department. First I shall speak regarding the management of the Unclassed State Forests in Garo Hills by the State Forest Department on behalf of the Garo Hills District Council before the management was transferred to the District Council after it came into being. Sir, the Garo Hills District Council could not take over the management of these forests immediately after it was constituted; so they were continued to be managed by the State Forest Department for little more than a year. But it is a matter of great regret, Sir, that whereas the State Forest Department could charge only 25 per cent to the gross revenue income for the management of forests belonging to the Zamindars, they charged the District Council 44 per cent of the gross revenue for the management of its forests. I do not understand why this difference. I fail to understand, Sir, as to why the Government could not agree to charge the District Council 25 per cent of the gross revenue when they could charge the Zamindars at that rate for the last 74 years. Sir, the Zamindars' forests are private forests, whereas the Council forests are public forests. This being the fact, the Government should have been all the more agreeable to charge the District Council only 25 per cent of the gross revenue for the management of the said Council Forests for the period of one year only. This is really very unfair to the District Council. Government should therefore do well to revise their policy in this regard.

Another point which I would like to bring to the notice of this House is that after the management of the Forests other than the Government Reserved Forests had been taken over by the District Council, we also took over some buildings which were maintained by the State Forest Department, exclusively for the management of the Unclassed State Forests. Unfortunately, Sir, in this matter Government considered it desirable to charge the Garo Hills District Council even for the most ordinary Kutcha buildings.

Not only that, the Government charged the Council even for the Kutchha wells upto the amount of Rs.300. Thus it appears to me, Sir, that the Government do not have any sympathy for the District Council. Sir, in this connection, I may also say that whenever we hand over some of our roads to the Public Works Department for maintenance by them, the District Council give all the buildings such as Inspection Bungalows, Staging Huts, etc., free of cost. In the same way the Government should not have made the District Council to pay anything for the said forest building. I hold this view, Sir, because the management of the Unclassed State Forests has been taken over by the District Councils as legal successors to the State Government of Assam in the administration of the Autonomous Districts. It is therefore very unfortunate that the State Forest Department has failed to appreciate this fact and to hand over the said buildings to the District Council free of cost.

Next, I would also like to speak a few words about the working of the Pilot Projects in the Garo Hills District. In the first instance, I am to say, Sir, that the Project has not been working successfully. Sir, this Project was introduced as per advice given by Mr. Chturvedi, Inspector General of Forests, and Dr. Uppal, Commissioner of Agriculture, Government, of India both of whom visited Garo Hills sometime in 1952 to study as to how best the present shifting Jhum cultivation can be replaced by other permanent method of cultivation. As I understand, Sir, this Project consists of three schemes. According to the original programme, the entire hill is to be divided into three portions. The top portion of the hill is for afforestation, the middle portion is for raising cash crops and the bottom portion is meant for permanent Jhum cultivation. However, very unfortunately nothing has been done with regard to afforestation and the Jhum cultivation except raising cash crops. Sir, if we are to discard the present system of shifting Jhum cultivation in the Hills Areas, our people should be provided with alternative method of food crop cultivation. But as I said, nothing has been done in this regard during last three or four years. As a result, our people are facing enormous difficulties in getting land for their present method of Jhum cultivation. Because the Department concerned gave us to understand that all these three schemes would be simultaneously started and the people would be given the bottom portion of the Hill for permanent Jhum cultivation and the families depending on shifting Jhum cultivation would be decreased and thus there would be no land problem. It is with this assurance, the Department made the villagers agree to make their land for starting the Project. We have got three such projects

up-till now, namely in (1) Tebronggiri, (2) Machangpani, and (3) Wage Asi and each centre covers an area of one thousand acres of land. In all these centres, the Forest Department is increasing the area under cash crop cultivation every year. But as the villagers to whom the land belongs, have not been provided with permanent Jhum cultivation and as the land available for shifting cultivation is becoming less and less every year, they are being placed in great difficulty. Because in our Hills the land belongs to the entire community and they cannot go to some other place or area in search of land for Jhum cultivation.

In this way our people are finding it difficult to part with their land. I had a discussion with the authorities on the subject and I was told that the land was not suitable for starting permanent Jhum cultivation. I do not know, Sir, who is to be blamed for selection of unsuitable land for this Pilot Project. Why the Pilot Project have been located in the areas knowing fully well that the land is unfit for starting the three different schemes. I would therefore suggest that alternative areas should be found out immediately where three schemes can be started simultaneously.

Sir, I would also like to point out that at present there is no proper demarcation of boundaries of the Government Reserved Forests in Garo Hills. Sir, in absence of proper boundaries it is found that some arable lands are being unnecessarily included in the reserved forests. These lands are fit for rice cultivation. Of course some people are allowed to do some cultivation in those areas. But as the land is under Forest Department, the cultivators cannot have stability in holding those lands. My submission to this House therefore is that those lands which are fit for rice cultivation and which are not utilised either for natural regeneration or forest plantation should be excluded from the reserved forests and made available for rice cultivation. Sir, I make this submission because in the Hills, we have limited areas fit for paddy cultivation.

Now, a few words with regard to the settlement of fisheries by the State Forest Department, on the plea that the fisheries fall within the boundary of the reserved forests. I want to make a mention of one such case. In the Baghmara area of my District, the State Forest Department made an attempt to settle a fishery on the Sameswary river. A tender was already invited and the lease was settled. We objected to the settlement of the lease on the ground that the river is not within the reserve forest. The forest authorities however contended that the boundary of the Reserve extended to the midstream. However, even if

that is so, I do not know how the forest authorities of the State Government can settle the fishery. Because there cannot be any guarantee that the fishes will always remain on one side of the river. They may go either this side or that side of the river. In fact I have personally visited the area to ascertain the boundary of the Reserve Forest and I found that in some places the boundary pillars are at a distance of some 100 to 200 yards from the bank of the river. So I find that there has been unnecessary encroachment on the part of the Forest Department of the State Government. So, Sir, for want of proper demarcation in certain areas, the State Forest Department is encroaching, on our land. Therefore, my submission to this House is that the proper demarcation of the boundaries of the Government Reserve Forests should be done in consultation with the District Council. My another submission is that all the flat lands which are included in the reserved forests should be released to the people for permanent wet cultivation. This is to be done not only in Garo Hills but in other Hills Districts also.

With these observations, I make an appeal to the Minister-in-charge to look into the matter which I have placed before the House and thus to remove the difficulties faced by our people in the Hills Districts.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Forests): Sir, my Friend, Shri, Larsingh Khyriem, has mentioned something about elephant hunting operation in the Jowai Subdivision. Sir, what he has stated is not a fact. Government has been organising elephant hunting operations in different parts of Jowai Subdivision. Sir, the area being hilly, it is very difficult for the parties who undertake hunting operations to have sufficient number of catches of the wild elephants. As a matter of fact, in the year 1955, it appears we allowed as many as 15 seats with 30 captures, but only 11 captures were made in place of 30 due to difficult position of the areas. This season also which will begin from October, we are taking steps to undertake hunting operation in Jowai Subdivision.

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, I mentioned about one area called Sapator area.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, I am not quite sure about this.

Mr. SPEAKER: It will be convenient for the House if the Hon'ble Minister confines his observations to the observations made by the hon. Member. That will be also in consonance with the rules.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Forests): Regarding the particular place, Sir, I am not quite certain whether any hunting operation was undertaken there. We shall see that it is also included this year.

Sir, it is also a fact that after the last war, there was an abnormal movement of the wild elephant from the North Burma side, particularly to some areas along the Lushai Hills in the Cachar district.

Regarding the points raised by my Friend, Shri Jahan Uddin Ahmed, who comes from the Bilasipara Constituency, the hon. Member know, that I myself went there on the representation of some affected people. It is a fact that we have evicted certain number of forest encroachers. Their number is not 800 families as stated by the hon. Member but it will be about 300 families. The eviction was effected in respect of 160 families and about 100 families still remained to be evicted. My Friends, Shri Jahan Uddin and Shri Tudu, were also there. We had a discussion. The Conservator of Forests was also with me.

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): Our question was that since these encroachers were there for a long time, they should be allowed to remain, otherwise some alternative, land should be given to them.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, so far as these forest lands are concerned, anybody, and everybody cannot be allowed to settle there. We cannot permit unlimited number of people to go and settle within the reserved forests. We have got certain rules and regulations with regard to these reserved forests.

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED: At the time of encroachment, why did the Government not prevent them from doing so?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, we have now 100 families to be evicted. Kachugaon is the biggest forest colony in India. The population of the forest villagers there will be between twenty to twenty-five thousand.

It is very unwieldy. It is not possible to keep a watch by the limited number of forest staff when some people from outside surreptitiously make their way and encroach upon the reserved forest land. As a matter of fact, eviction was carried

and only 100 encroachers remained to be evicted. So far as these one hundred people are concerned, I have passed order that they should not be evicted now in the rains as eviction will put them into great hardships. So considering this, I have allowed them extension of time till the end of October. Now the other point that has been raised by my Friend is regarding the people who are agents of the contractors. Sir, Kachugaon is in the midst of reserved forests and, therefore, the contractors who have to go there for their timber business, generally have to stay there till their business, is finished. So, in order to keep their agents and workers, the contractors construct temporary Bashes inside the forest and for this Government allowed a certain portion of our reserve near Kachugaon and that portion is known as Contractors' Patty. Sir, our policy is very clear that we cannot allow anybody, whether contractors or their agents to stay in the Contractors' Patty for all time to come after their timber operation is over. If any one is found staying inside the forest area without any permission, he will have to be evicted according to forest rules and regulation.

Now, Sir, my Friend has raised the question of a bazar area and that we have allowed certain people to have their shops there and some of these people my Friend has termed them as refugees. Sir, we cannot allow anybody to have any plot of land near the bazar area. It is now found that the persons whom my Friend has termed as refugees were the persons on whom an eviction order has been passed by Government to shift immediately from the said land. So far I remember, the person concerned came to Shillong and met me. He has agreed to go away from that land, but he wanted time. So we have allowed him time till the end of October. So, Sir, you will find that in no way we can allow any unauthorised occupants to remain in the forest reserve ; we must abide by the forest rules and regulation.

Now, Sir, my Friend, Capt. Sangma, has raised a question about Jhum cultivation. Now that we have a Pilot Project in the hills areas, we are trying to introduce other methods of cultivation. Sir, Garo Hills district is the district where the denudation of forest is very high. If you go to Tura you will not find any big trees, you will find that forests are being cleared and as a result bamboos are now coming up there. So, Sir, if we allow the forests to be cleared like this the forests will totally disappear.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Nothing has been done for the permanent cultivation.....

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Forests): We are trying to implement the Pilot Project there in order to help the hills brethren to take to better methods of cultivation unless and until we can give them some other alternative methods of cultivation and give them some other ways and means we cannot expect our hill brethren to give up shifting cultivation.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Sir, Pilot Project consists of three Schemes only and according to this Project the entire hill is to be divided into three parts—the top one for afforestation, the middle one for cash crops, etc., and the bottom one for Jhumming cultivation. So what do we find here is only a three schemes and no new method is there for cultivation.....

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : Sir, we cannot have permanent cultivation in the hills, but we are trying to introduce cash crops in the hills areas, for example, cashew-nuts, coffee, black peppers, etc. These are very profitable cash crops which are dollar earning. Government is trying to substitute gradually the Jhumming cultivation by better methods. It is very difficult to give any assurance to the hon. Member, but we may explore ways and means. If my Friend is prepared to give in exchange some Unclassed State Forest areas with certain forest reserves where there is cultivable area, perhaps that may be examined.

Mr. SPEAKER : I find there is exchange of words but not exchange of areas.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** If according to the Pilot Project the areas allotted for the scheme is not found suitable certainly those areas will simultaneously go to Jhumming cultivation and the Project will have to go to some other areas.....

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : Sir, I am not quite sure what is the present position, but anyhow, if the hon. Member wants, I may have a discussion with him and the Conservator of Forests, and certainly after our discussion we shall try to remove this difficulty, if there is any.

Shri KHOGENDRANATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : Sir, is it not a fact that some persons were given settlements somewhere in Rangali Reserve and on the ground that they are Communists, their settlements were subsequently cancelled ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Forests): Deroi reserve is also called Rangali Reserve. Regarding the point raised by my Friend, I am not so clear. However, I will have to consult my Department on this point.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** I have not got the reply from the hon. Minister regarding the circumstances under which the Government had charged 44 per cent of the total income of forests for their management, whereas the Government could manage with the Zamindars at 25 per cent only for the last 70 years.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I have got the information just now that Government have decided to charge the Garo Hills District Council on the same manner as in other District Councils.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** What is the percentage in other districts ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I cannot say now at the moment.

Mr. SPEAKER : There are two Cut Motions one in the name of a Member from Bilasipara and the other in the name of a Member from Jowai. Do they propose to withdraw their Cut Motions ?

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Sir, since the hon. Minister has promised to take action in the matter, I beg to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : Sir, I also beg to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.74,40,000 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—"10.—Forests".

The Motion was adopted.

Grant No.49

(65-A-2.—Capital Outlay on Forests)

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Forests) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.6,60,000 (Rupees six lakhs and sixty-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—"65-A-2.—Capital Outlay on Forests".

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.6,60,000 (Rupees six lakhs and sixty-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—"65-A-2.—Capital Outlay on Forests".

I am afraid whether we shall be able to finish the business of the day. We have given 45 minutes for Grant No.5, but we have taken about one hour and ten minutes.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Sir, I will not take more than 10 or 15 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.10,000 under Grant No.49, Major head—65-A-2.—Capital Outlay on Forests, Minor head—Wattle cultivation, Sub-head B.—Conservancy and Works, Detailed head—VII.—Organisation, Improvement and Extension of Forests, at page 551 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,60,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my object in moving this Cut Motion is to get a statement from the Government of Assam whether they have occupied without the authority of any law some parts of forests which fall under the jurisdiction of the District Council outside the Reserved Forests declared as such under the law as stated in paragraph 3(2) of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Sir, in the constitution we find it is stated in paragraph 3(2)—"In this paragraph a 'reserved forest' means any area which is a reserved forest under the Assam Forests Regulation, 1891 or under any other law for the time being in force for the area in question". There is an impression in this District that the Government of Assam were trying to occupy land just as a Khasi does, the land which belongs to the people or to

the community. Whether Government have done any such thing, I do not know, but it is an impression that the Cinchona Plantation in the Nongpoh area is not included in the Reserved Forests of the Government declared as such under the Forest Regulation, 1891. I want to be very sure that Government have not in any way taken any more land outside the reserved forests.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.10,000 under Grant No.49, Major head—65-A-2.—Capital Outlay on Forests, Minor head—Wattle Cultivation, Sub-head—B.—Conservancy and Works, Detailed head—VII.—Organisation, Improvement and Extension of Forests, at page 551 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,60,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Forests) : Sir, I may straightaway inform the hon. Member, who has raised this matter that Government have not without authority taken over any forest belonging either to the District Council or any private individual. We have not done that. There are forests in the neighbourhood of Shillong known as Green Forests, which are private forests. These are not our Government forests. But the felling of trees in the Green Forests is regulated by the Forest Department under executive order. That is the position. Sir, I am not aware that the Forest Department is trying to occupy land belonging to private individuals. That is not correct.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Will the Hon'ble Minister please examine the map and see whether the cinchona plantation in Nongpoh area falls within the reserved forests or whether it has been taken over by Government from the area which is not under reserved forest because Government can take only those areas which fell within reserved forests and not any other forests?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I will look into it and try to ascertain the real position.

Mr. SPEAKER : Does the hon. Member from Cherrapunji want to press his Motion?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: No, Sir.
(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

Mr. SPEAKER. I put the main question. The question is that a sum of Rs.6,60,000 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 "65-A-2.—Capital Outlay on Forests".

(The Motion was adopted.)

The next two grants, Nos. 18 and 19, relate to Medical and Public Health. For both these items we allotted one hour, but I notice the number of Cut Motions to Grant No.18 is fairly large, viz., 12, and there are seven Cut motions to Grant No.19. So, I would like to know from the hon. Members how the debate should be conducted so that the largest number of members may get chance to make their observations.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): These are important matters and I submit we sit up to 5 P.M.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have to, because we will have to sit for half an hour for a discussion raised by hon. Member from Gauhati.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA: I suggest that a Cut Motion of general nature be moved and the other Members may speak on it. That will economise time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Even then I do not think we can finish these demands within the next half hour.

Grant No.18

(38.—Medical)

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,03,24,700 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—"38.—Medical".

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.1,03,24,700 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—"38.—Medical".

Which Cut motion will be moved ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati):
No.11, Sir

By the Cut Motion I want to raise a general discussion on the grant.

Shri BISHWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,03,24,700 under Grant No.18, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 178 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,03,24,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHAYA—माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय वित्तमंत्री महोदय ने अपने बजट भाषण के ४ पृष्ठ में इस सदन में हमारे देश की दिनोदिन बढ़ती हुई जनसंख्या का जिक्र किया है। लेकिन इस बढ़ती हुई जनसंख्या को रोकने के लिये सरकार की ओर से कोई विशेष प्रयास नहीं किया जा रहा है। हमने देखा है कि बजट में Family Planning के लिये एक लाख रुपये की व्यवस्था है। मुझे पता नहीं कि Family Planning जैसी एक महत्वपूर्ण योजना के लिये सिर्फ एक लाख रुपये से क्या लाभ होगा? हमने यह भी देखा है कि हमारी पहली योजना में Family Planning के लिये कोई व्यवस्था नहीं हुई। दूसरी योजना में Family Planning की व्यवस्था है। यह खुशी की बात है। किंतु Family Planning जैसे एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय के लिये सिर्फ एक लाख रूपया ऊट के मुह में जीरा जैसा है। यह विषय इतना गंभीर हो चुका है कि इसने हमारे देशके विशेषज्ञों का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। एक विशेषज्ञ का कहना है कि बढ़ती हुई जनसंख्या को रोकने की कोई उचित व्यवस्था नहीं हुई तो ५० साल के अंदर हमारे देश की जनसंख्या दुगुनी होनेवाली है। किंतु इतना होते हुए भी, अर्थात् इस समस्या के गुरुत्वपूर्ण आकार धारण करनेपर भी इसको रोकथाम करने के लिये सरकार की ओर से कोई उचित व्यवस्था नहीं की जा रही है। एक बहुत प्रसिद्ध डॉक्टर तथा विशेषज्ञ का कहना है—

यह देखते हुए और इस सवाल के गंभीर्य को देखते हुए एक लाख रूपया बहुत ही कम है।

Family Planning का प्रश्न बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है। इसके लिये काफ़ी रूपया खर्च करना चाहिये। हम अधिक शस्य उत्पादन और अधिक खाद्यसामग्री का उत्पादन करना चाहते हैं। किंतु बिना Family Planning के अधिक खाद्यशस्य का उत्पादन किसी कामका नहीं होगा। अधिक खाद्य उत्पादन करके हम इस समस्या का समाधान नहीं कर सकते।

इसके अलावा शिलांग सरकारी अस्पताल की ओर सरकार की तीव्रदृष्टि आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। इस अस्पताल की स्थिति बड़ी शोचनीय है। हमने देखा है कि यहाँ कोई भी रोगी रहना नहीं चाहता। हमारे धनिक वर्ग की बात ही नहीं—गरीब से गरीब रोगी भी यहाँ रहना पसन्द नहीं करता। इसमें जरूर कोई राज है। हमारे कोई भी मंत्री या धनिक वर्ग के कोई भी आदमी यहाँ रहना नहीं चाहते। वे Robert Hospital में रहना और वहाँ रहकर चिकित्सा कराना ही पसन्द करते हैं। इसका कोई खास कारण जरूर ही होगा। इसलिये सरकारी अस्पताल की उन्नति के लिये सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। अगर इसकी उन्नति न कर सके तो उसे बंद कर देना ही उचित होगा। सरकारी अस्पताल के बढ़ने यह कहाँ Robert Hospital पर ही खर्च करना उचित होगा। सरकार से मैं अनुरोध करना हूँ कि इस अस्पताल की ओर विशेष ध्यान दें तथा यह देखें कि सरकारी अस्पताल में इलाज की अच्छी और पूरी व्यवस्था हो।

Mr. SPEAKER The Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs. 1,03,24,700 under Grant No. 18, Major head—38—Medical, at page 178 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,03,24,700 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend from Patharkandi. I would like to place before the House the present state of affairs obtaining in the Assam Medical College at Dibrugarh. This is the only Medical College in the State and for that matter the only institution of this kind which is said to be one of the best colleges in India. This is not only a teaching institution but also a hospital where people from all corners of the State come in the expectation to get best treatment from specialists. Our Medical Minister takes pride in stating that the Assam Medical College is one of the best institutions of its kind in India. But I am inclined to feel that he is too modest. Sir, if we take stock of the things predominating in the Assam Medical College, we shall find that it tops the list, not because it offers facilities for specialised treatment, but for the highly specialised and organised looting and swindling that are practised there. When patients go there for treatment of a broken leg or broken arm, they have to come back disappointed. You will surely wonder why. Because Plaster of Paris, which runs hands in gloves with Surgery has disappeared from the Central Store of the Medical College. The Plaster of Paris meant for the patients generally find its way to the black market. Unless and until you pay something to the doctors in the shape of tips, usually termed "fees" they do not care to attend to the patients. Therefore, the poor men cannot afford the costly treatment as they cannot pay any tips.

Sir, curiously enough anti-biotics, penicillin, a specific for treatment of cocal infestation and insulin, the standard drug for the treatment of diabetics and diabetic comma, are not available for the patients in the Assam Medical Collage Hospital. The patients have to purchase them for themselves, and if they cannot afford to do so, that they have to forego the treatment. I am persuaded to believe the medical men in the Assam Medical College are the best specialists ; that is why they teach the patients and along with it their students too rely on the Grace of the Almighty rather than on medication.

In the Radiology Department, one is never assured of a course of deep X-ray therapy unless one pays sumptuous remuneration to the powers that be. To have an X-ray photograph one must pay tips, and if it is required promptly, as in the cases of fracture and acute ulceration of the stomach, duodenum, etc., the tips must be heavy. Sir, our experts in Radiology can diagnose a fracture in the left arm from an X-ray photograph of the right shoulder blade. Shall we not call this Medical College the best in the world ?

Then in the Eye Department also—and here I have two exhibits—there are good examples of specialised treatment. Dr. M. Rehman, a Municipal Commissioner of Dibrugarh, had his eyes examined in the Eye Department of the Assam Medical College on 2nd February, 1957. He had his glasses in accordance with the prescription given to him by the optician in-charge of the department. Those glasses did not suit him. He took them to the Eye Department again, where the glasses were found to be correct to the prescription. He was again asked to present himself for examination on 5th April, 1957. But the prescription given this time spoke volumes about the optical capacity of the Eye Expert. This time the axis of the left eye changed from 30 degrees to 180 degrees, and the astigmatic condition changed from 2·0D Cyl. in the right eye to ·75D Cyl. and from 1·0D Cyl. in the left eye to ·75D Cyl. The near distance changed from 1·5D Sph. and 1·75D Sph. to 3·0 and 3·0 for the right and the left eyes respectively. I have yet to come across such a peculiar case of ocular abenation. From this one can safely conclude that the patients do not receive the attention they deserve. In this case the patient is an M.B.B.s. of Calcutta University, and a medical practitioner of standing. He is also a Municipal Commissioner. If such a person is sought to be deceived, what is in store for the simpletons for our villages, can easily be imagined? Here is a similar case of Mr. M. R. Hogue of Shillong. He also had

the glasses made in accordance with the prescription of the optician of the Medical College but the glasses did not suit him. He was again asked to come down to Dibrugarh. Now, Sir, to come to Dibrugarh several times and to purchase costly glasses for the purpose of experiment is a feat which obviously cannot be performed by the average patients of our State.

Then, Sir, a girl patient from Sibsagar, the daughter of * * * a Settlement Officer * * * who came to the Eye Department for examination and treatment, was rudely treated and molested by * * * an employee of the Eye Department. Now, Sir.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already informed the hon. Members of this House that they should not bring in names of any person when the hon. Members refer to any matter.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Sir, if things go on like this, self-respecting patients will shrug shoulders when obliged to come to Medical College for treatment. When the grievance of the girl patient was brought to the notice of the authorities, it is the girl's brother who had to tender apology to the offender. This is, Sir, a brilliant example of justice and dignity for which our Medical Minister deserves congratulation.

Even in respect of the Department of Physiology, we find that the Head of the Department of Physiology does not keep a proper account of the money spent by him. Sir, I have records to prove my statement. If this is the case in respect of a person of the calibre of the Professor of Physiology, what can we expect of other lesser friess? Laying the blame on the Minister-in-charge will, I am afraid, serve no purpose. The whole administrative set up has got to be changed. The Principal of the College has four-fold functions. He is the Principal of the College, the Superintendent of the hospital, Professor of Surgery and the Surgeon in charge. But for six months of the year he keeps himself out on tour, because he is a member of several medical bodies and an examiner of several universities. And as a result the patients, students and all suffer. In the Hostels also there seems to be no discipline as the Superintendent has to keep himself out on professional calls. In the Isolation Ward we find even serious diptheria patients remaining unattended. I say this from my personal experience as I had

been to the Hospital only on the last day of May. Beds provided there are also not sufficient. The Professor in charge does not pay regular visits to the Ward and therefore he seems to be entirely unaware of all these. It is the Nurses on whom the entire duty was left. This is the state of affairs going on in the Assam Medical College which must end immediately. I therefore want to give some suggestions to the Medical Minister. I suggest that there should be a rule limiting the volume and nature of professional private practice by the Professors of the Medical College. If necessary, to make up the loss by such limitation, their pay may be enhanced. In the T. B. Ward we find patients do not get admission for want of accommodation and as a result they stay outside in the town in the houses of their relatives or in hotels. Sir, this is fraught with very serious consequences. This helps spread of T. B. germs. Number of beds for T. B. patients should therefore be increased. The Clinical Laboratory should also be expanded to give twenty-four hours' service.

Then in the matter of appointment of the professors, teachers, and other staff also we find that in some of the cases the recommendations of the Public Service Commission are respected more by their rejection than by acceptance and resort to Regulation 3 is often taken. Another instance of irregularity relate to the appointment of the R. M. O. A gentleman was appointed as the in-charge of the Central Medical Store but a medical graduate was not necessary to control that department. But our Government could realise the mistake only when the office of the Resident Medical Officer fell vacant, which was then filled by the self-same gentleman of the Central Medical Store. We also find quality of teaching is very much deteriorating. According to the recommendations of the Indian Medical Council, there should not be more than 16 students per teacher, but we find the present number is about 65 per teacher. This year the number of students admitted in the First Year Class has increased. Therefore, Sir, more teachers shall have to be taken in. House Surgeons used to draw previously Rs. 150 p.m. but now it has been reduced to Rs. 100 p.m. Out of this they have got to spend about Rs. 80 p.m. as mess dues etc., leaving only a meagre sum for their other expenses. Sir, I am only giving a bare outline of the state of affairs obtaining at present in the Medical College. There is no provision for a Rest House in the College and as a result patients from outside have to undergo serious inconvenience.

With these words, Sir, I suport the Cut Motion of my hon. Friend from Patharkandi.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not understand how the state of affairs as described by my Friend from Dibrugarh can take place when there is a huge amount of surrender in this Medical Department. For example, I find that in the last year's Budget the allocation under the head Medical was Rs.83 lakhs 19 thousand. But the expenditure was only Rs.65 lakhs 93 thousand. That is to say, there was a surrender of Rs.17 lakhs 26 thousand. Similarly in the Public Health Department also there was a big surrender, both together, coming to Rs.65 lakhs 69 thousand. Now, if there would have been dearth of money, it would have been quite understandable that the pay of the House Surgeons, or the House Physicians is to be reduced. But when the Government have not been able even to spend the money allotted to them, I fail to see any reason why the pay of these officers should be reduced.

The sorry state of affairs obtaining in the Assam Medical College has been explained by my Friend. Now, I would like to place before the House some of the facts about the Gauhati Civil Hospital. At one time when there was a question as to whether there should be a second Medical College, I protested against this proposition. At that time I said that in stead of a second college there should rather be a first-class hospital at Gauhati. But what is the present position there? There the daily attendance in the Gauhati Civil Hospital vary from 120 to 150 in the outdoor; the number of emergency cases, 6 to 8 per day; major operations—4 to 6 per day. There are only 177 beds though some extra beds also are improvised much to the discomfort of the patients. Sanitation is worse than useless; water supply is quite inadequate; diet for the two meals and also for two teas is only Rs.1/2/- per day per patient, that is to say, a diet of annas six or seven per meal per patient. From this it can be very well understood what type of meal has been served to the patients. Regarding the staff, there is one Surgeon, one Civil Surgeon, one Assistant Surgeon Grade I and three Assistant Surgeons, Grade II. Now according to the Medical rules there should be at least one Nurse for every 10 patients. But here in this Hospital one Nurse is to look after 55 patients. They are also not trained Nurses; most of them are trainees sent by the Red Cross. They are only students, and not actually Nurses. Maternity Ward is most congested and dirty and even the labour room is extremely dirty and ill-equipped. There we have got a Surgeon who is a renowned

Surgeon, a retired professor from the Medical College. But you will be surprised, Sir, to hear that there is no Anaesthetist to help him. There is no oxygen. When one of the two cylinders becomes empty, it has to be sent to Calcutta for refilling. But in the meantime when the second cylinder becomes empty, there is no more to refill. As a result the patients suffer, they collapse by the time the apparatus is received back after refilling. There is no blood bank and the result is fatal, specially in delivery cases. Many women die due to want of blood.

Then there is one emergency ward but always there is no seat and there is no trained assistant to help the surgeon. The compounders are to do the job for which they are not trained at all. As I have already said, the number of doctors is too small, the result is that they are over-worked and therefore the patients do not get proper attention which they ought to get. This is a place where patients not only from the district of Kamrup come but also those from Goalpara, Darrang and western portion of Nowgong. Moreover, Gauhati town is fast developing into a city. If no first-class hospital is there, we cannot say that the Medical Department is running smoothly and efficiently.

I want to place a few concrete suggestions which I feel is the general opinion of the people there. The present requirement is that, there should be at least one separate ward for different diseases, there should be one specialist for each major disease, it should be made a hospital of at least 500 beds—50 beds for delivery cases, 20 beds for emergency cases, 30 for eye cases, 30 for ear, nose and throat cases, 50 for female diseases, 150 for surgical cases, 150 for medical cases and 20 for children diseases. Things will improve to some extent if this minimum requirement is supplied and when a big plot near the hospital has been acquired, there is no reason why this hospital cannot be developed into a first-class one. My plea is that we should improve the hospital and increase the number of doctors, nurses and the attending staff.

Debate on Srimati Lily Sen Gupta's Unstarred Question
No.66. on Shillong Hydro Electric Ltd.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: I want just two minutes, Sir, to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now already 4-30 and we have another half hour discussion on the Medical grant.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Can't I have just two minutes, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not to-day. Then there is another half-hour discussion on Srimati Lily Sen Gupta's Unstarred Question on Shillong Hydro Electric Company. Now, Mr. Bhattacharyya.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): The other day when the Minister in charge of Electricity gave a reply to the Unstarred Question No.66, put by Srimati Lily Sen Gupta, certain facts have come out in the answer and I have to draw the attention of the Minister-in-charge to these matters which, as I said, have come out from the answers given by him. It appears that the Company in spite of notices and warnings from the Government have failed to make any appreciable improvement whatsoever and are regularly maintaining machines which are lower than that prescribed in the license. That is one fact that has come out from the answer. The second is that two new sub-stations have been opened and two more are expected to be opened. The third is about the loan of Rs.6 lakhs taken by the Company from the Industrial Finance Corporation.

Now, with regard to No.1, I beg to enquire in how many occasions notices were served on the Company for cancellation of the licence when they failed to improve electricity supply and what was the response of the Company? From the answer here we do not find the number of times—at least for the last three years these failures were going on, we want to know how many times such notices were served, and when the

Company did not act up to the notices whether any step was taken and if so, what are those steps? Secondly, whether those cancellation notices were issued as a result of the decision of the Cabinet or by the Minister of the day in his discretion. I want to know why in spite of these notices the Company which ignored these notices has been shown so much of favour that is to say, why the licence has not been cancelled.

Thirdly, whether the date for such extensions by which improvement was to be effected by the Company had expired or whether that date is still to expire and if so, when? Then, whether the present Cabinet or the Minister-in-charge is a party to this extension? Whether extension of time given to the Company for making improvements still continues and whether the present Cabinet and the Minister-in-charge are a party to this extension? It is well known, Sir, that ugly speculations have been created in the minds of the people and these should be removed. This is a very urgent matter and if what I have just stated are not removed, it will lead us all to the irresistible conclusion that the Company has been thriving on the sunshine of favour of the Government. We want that the Government's attitude on these points should be very clear.

With regard to the two new sub-stations, one of them, according to my information, has been built at Nongthymmai, an area which is not thickly populated, when more thickly populated areas have been ignored. I would like to know why Nongthymmai was selected for this sub-station.

Now, as regards the third point, that is the loan of Rs. 6 lakhs taken by the Company, it should be noted that if the Government decide to nationalise this concern in the light of the understanding given by the *ex-Ministry* that it was under consideration, then they will have to take liability of this amount of Rs. 6 lakhs. So I beg to know from the Government if there is any instalment of loan yet to be paid, whether Government consider that the Industrial Corporation should be asked to withhold such payment unless on being satisfied that the Company has effected improvement with that money advanced, Government recommends to the Corporation to issue the instalment still to be paid? So far as my information goes, the Company does not maintain a qualified engineer to look after their engines. The Company must be asked to maintain a qualified engineer of sufficient experience and passed from a recognised Engineering Institution and then only we shall not have so many breakdowns as experienced up till now. Therefore, I want an assurance from the Government and from the

present Minister-in-charge that within the stipulated period of extension that has been given to the Company the improvements that were sought to be got should be realised and if these improvements are not completed within this period, Government should consider taking over of this concern in the interest of the public of Shillong.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister if it is the policy of the Government to nationalise all concerns that produce hydel. power; and whether this has been the policy of the Government of India, or whether the practice of leaving the monopoly of producing hydel. power in Shillong to private individuals is still to continue, and whether it is in the national interest to nationalise those companies which produce hydel. power for commercial purposes. These are the points which I would like the hon. Minister to clarify.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): I thank the hon. Members for giving me an opportunity to focus in the policy of the Government with regard to electricity.

Firstly, starting from the question raised by the hon. Member from Dibrugarh I want to state straightaway that so far as production and ownership of hydel. power is concerned, by its very nature it is likely to be mostly in the public sector. Apart from small schemes which can be promoted by individuals also, by far and large the hydel. power generation needs a type of scheme which is possible only for the Government of India or the Government of Assam as the case may be. Now it will be remembered that we have had up till now only one hydel. project, i.e., Umtru which is going to production on the 9th of July, 1957. This is entirely going to be in the public sector, so far as production of electricity is concerned. So far as distribution is concerned, at Gauhati we had a private firm and the question was whether we should distribute the electricity through the private firm or we should distribute it through ourselves. In the meantime the House will remember, we drew proceedings against the existing Company and its licence has been revoked, and we are ready to take over the Gauhati concern for the purpose of distribution also. But unfortunately a case has been filed by the Company in the Court and an injunction has been issued. Until we are free from the injunction, we are not in a position to take over the concern. As soon as the injunction is withdrawn or vacated, Government will take over the distribution also.

Now coming to the question raised by the hon. Member from Gauhati, I may say that it is true that this company of Shillong was given a loan of Rs. 6 lakhs. We intend that this money be utilised for the purpose of improving the production and distribution of electricity in the city. So, naturally we do not want to withdraw that money. Therefore, I am not willing to accept the suggestion that the money may be withheld or withdrawn. Rather we are asking the Company to utilise this money for the purpose of producing adequate electricity. Some-time back when I first became Minister, the local Director came to me and talked to me, and tried to convince me of the wisdom of limiting the consumption of electricity in the city. I told him that my policy was going to promote consumption and not to limit consumption, so he must change his outlook. So that is going to be the policy of our Government, viz., to increase consumption and production of electricity not merely in this city but throughout the whole State. Therefore, we stand by the idea that this Rs. 6 lakhs should be utilised for the purpose of promoting electricity. I understand, in the meantime, this Company has got a 200 kw. diesel plant which has already been installed and put into commission in the Nongthymmai sub power station on 27th August, 1956. Then an additional 350 kw. set put into commission on 19th October, 1956. This has improved to some extent the production and distribution of electricity in the city. But I personally feel it is not enough. Unless this Company goes forward to increase electricity further obviously the present unsatisfactory affairs will continue. Therefore we have told this Company who are also the owners of the Gauhati Company that as soon as their sets are released at Gauhati when Umtru takes over, they would be in a position to divert one of their good sets generating 500 kw. to Shillong. Instead of that they had filed a case in the High Court. I think they will be well advised to bring one of their sets to supply adequate electricity in the Shillong town.

The question was raised as to why Nongthymmai was selected for the purpose of such a sub-station. I personally do not know, I am not an expert. I think so far as these sub-stations are concerned, they are selected for the purpose of regeneration of electricity so that the voltage might be maintained. Whether these sub-stations are established for the purpose of maintaining the voltage, it is for the expert to decide. It is true that three have already been opened and one remains. I think when fourth one is opened, the position would much improve. (A voice: What are the places?) Laban, Barabazar

Fruit Garden and Dorjan line. These are the four places which are supposed to be sub-station areas.

The question has been raised that notices were served, what happened to the notices ? How they got cancelled ? Naturally notices are issued, replies are obtained and when replies are satisfactory, notices are cancelled. Sometimes replies are unsatisfactory but in this particular case 6 lakhs of rupees was sanctioned as a loan, with the hope that this Company would go forward to improve the supply. Therefore the notices stand cancelled. So far as I know, the Company is under notice again and that notice has been extended upto 20th July, 1957. Within that time the Company has to show progress, otherwise they will have to come forward with their explanation. What that explanation will be, I do not know and what action will be taken on the reply it is not for me to state at this stage, but the date is not expired.

The question has been asked whether I extended or cancelled these notices. I think the last notice was cancelled on 30th January, 1957 before our Ministry took over. Therefore I am not in a position to state exactly what happened at that time, but obviously when Government decided to give a loan of Rs. 6 lakhs, it intended that this Company should continue and improve the supply.

Having said all this, I come to the general question of nationalisation and whether there has been a departure in the policy followed by the last Ministry and ourselves. Let me in this connection refer to the quotation which was read out from the last Ministry's policy. It says, "When we shall be able to give effect to this scheme and start supply of electricity from those concern, we shall be in a position to consider nationalisation of this concern also". It does not say Government is thinking in terms of nationalisation, it merely says that when all the other things have been done then and then only Government will be in a position to think in terms of nationalisation. So at no stage did the last Ministry think in terms of notionalisation as seems to be the impression of some of the hon. Members. The statement which was made by myself the other day also does not say that we are going to undertake a general policy of nationalisation. So no question has arisen in the case of Shillong, so I do not think that there is any discrepancy or difference between my statement and the statement of the outgoing Minister with regard to nationalisation.

The position in regard to the electricity is this. This policy is not only meant for Assam but for the whole of India. In a statement issued in 1946 the Government of India said that so far as existing electricity concerns are concerned, they should be

allowed to continue but as far as new areas are concerned, it has been said that it is the State which should expand this amenity. So far as existing Companies are concerned, they should be allowed to continue and should be allowed to expand and that policy continues and following this policy we are going to expand the electricity in the State. At the beginning of Second Plan, the consumption of electricity in the State was 2.91 kw. *per capita* and at the end of the Second Plan it will be 5 kw. *per capita*, that means about 5 times more. Now, all this electricity has to be produced. The amount allowed to us is Rs. 4 crores. With this amount to achieve this target, is not easy. So, the policy is to allow the existing Companies to remain and in the meantime we are to extend the electricity in the public sector. Already we have gone forward with that policy to some extent and it will appear that there are 7 private electrical concerns and most of them are not in a position to meet the demand of the consumers due to financial and other difficulties. Now, 2 licences of Nowgong and Dhubri have already been revoked and revocation is being done in the case of Gauhati. We have some powers under rule 110 of the Electricity Act that if the licensee does not perform the duties he has undertaken under the Act, we have the right to cancel the licence. Following this rule, we have taken over two concerns and are going to take over another and I may tell the hon. Members that if the other companies also fail to perform the duties, in that case it will be our painful duty to revoke them. The definition of nationalisation and revocation are these. Under article 31 of the Constitution if any concern is nationalised, we are bound to give compensation and we must also give compensation for the unexpired period of the licence but when we revoke, we are not liable to pay compensation. Therefore, we permit the existing concerns to continue, if they fail to fulfil the conditions of their agreement with Government, in that case we will revoke them. This is a better course than nationalisation.

The next point is the amount of electricity we are to generate under public sector. Now, our problem is with very many difficulties in this regard. We have got very little industrial electrics. Under the Second Five Year Plan, we are going to have 25 k w. additional high tension lines of 657 miles, additional low tension lines of 950 miles, and we have no doubt that we are going ahead in this respect. Now, there is a proposal for 4 hydro-electrical projects at Haflong, Tura, Dimapur and Bokakhat. When you propose to take up such hydro-electrical projects, you require data for many years, but unfortunately in our State data were not

collected before. Therefore, we are in difficulty. We are going forward with collection of data for Kopily Valley as you all know and if we have a chance of harnessing the Kopily river, the electricity produced will be tremendous. Our plan for Gauhati is Umtru. Kopily Valley may produce 2,00,000 kw. and the excess kw. which we are going to get from the gas which we are going to utilise in Tinsukia and other places but as the excess will be quite big, we are going to take these three in one grid-system and in that case it will be possible to distribute electricity in a systematic way, on the one hand Karimganj and Cachar and on the other hand Tinsukia and some other places will be covered and we should expand this gradually to the whole of Assam and it may extend even to West Bengal. So possibilities of electricity in Assam are tremendous. We have some difficulty in our collection of data but we have moved in this direction already. Survey is being undertaken in Kopily Valley. As the electricity to be produced is tremendous, it is necessary to have some industries in our State so that electricity consumption may be increased.

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): Where is the scope?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): I hope the hon. Member will give me more energy to produce industries we desire.

Now, so far as 14 Small Town Electrification Schemes are concerned, you know, we have taken them up for Nalbari, Hojai, Titabar, Mangaldai, Dergaon, Hailakandi, Kohima, Doom-Dooma and Nazira.

These are the towns in which electricity is going to be given directly by the State. Then, we have some diesel stations, *e. g.*, in Aijal and Dhekiajuli.

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED: May I know about Goalpara and Dhubri whether Government is going to take up these towns for supplying electricity?

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): The Hon'ble. Minister should avoid speaking the subject covering the whole State as we are discussing about Shillong Electric concern only.

Mr. SPEAKER: When the hon. Members raised the issue in a larger form of nationalisation, I think, the reply of the Minister is relevant.

Now, the hon. Minister has already taken the half hour and when this half hour is over and as the prescribed time of half an hour is over, the discussion is also over.

you know according to the Assembly Rules it is stated that—
 “No division shall be taken on such debate and such time shall not be available for the transaction of any other business.”

We have completed the fruitful debate.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Tuesday, the 25th June, 1957.

Shillong	}	R. N. BARUA,
The 24th Jan. 1958.	}	Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

A.G.P. (L.A.) No.303/57—216—29-1-1958.

12. The Proprietor, 'Graduates Union, Gauhati.
13. Mr. Banwarilal Jain (Book Seller), 1719/2002, Mati Katra, Agra (India).
14. Messrs. Law Book Society, 65/3, Harrison Road, Calcutta.
15. The Director, Benares Corporation, University Road, P.O. Lanka.
16. Messrs. Law Book Society, 4A, Wellington Square, Calcutta.
17. Messrs. Bodh Raj Marwah, Booksellers, Shop No.63, Pusa Colony Market, Delhi-Karol Bagh, New Delhi.
18. The Oxford Book and Stationery Co., Scindia House, New Delhi/17, Park Street, Calcutta.
19. Messrs Mokshaga Pustakalaya, Publishers and Book Sellers, Gauhati.
20. Messrs Popular Book Depot (Regd.), Booksellers, Publishers, etc., Lamington Road, Bombay-7.
21. Messrs B.H.U. Press Book Depot, Booksellers, Publishers, etc., Banaras-5 (India).