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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at
1-30 P.M. on Friday, the 28th June, 1957.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Car No. ASA 2239

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

*36. Will the Minister for Transport be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Car No. ASA. 2239 belongs to the
Minister personally or was it given by the State
for the use of the Minister ?

(b) If the car was a State car, what has happened to
the car now ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport)
replied :

36. (a)—The Car No. ASA. 2239 was a State car and was
allotted to the *Ex-Minister*, Forests up to 5th September, 1956.

(b)—This was an old car and was found to be unreliable
and uneconomical for further use. It was, therefore, disposed of
by Government in February last.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): What was the price paid for the car ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport): The price paid was Rs. 5,000, Sir.

(Starred Questions Nos.37—38 standing in the name of Maulana Abdul Jalil Choudhury were not put and answered as the Questioner was absent.)

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Construction of building for Dibrugarh Government H. E. School

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) asked :

*39. Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) If it is a fact that the construction of the building for the Government H. E. School at Dibrugarh is kept in abeyance ?

(b) If so, for what reason ?

(c) If it is a fact that the name of the Government H. E. School, Dibrugarh, is proposed to be changed to "Jalan Government H. E. School" ?

(d) If so, what prompted the Government to outweigh the hoary tradition of the Dibrugarh Government H. E. School ?

(e) When the construction of the building for the Dibrugarh Government H. E. School is expected to be completed ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

39. (a)—It is not a fact.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—There is no proposal to name the Dibrugarh Government High School as "Jalan Government H. E. School",

(d)—In acceptance of the free gift of 25 bighas of land and offer of construction of the High School building on the land, after the name was washed away in erosion, Government proposed to link the memory of the donor with the gift and to name it as Government Murleidhor Jalan High School.

(e)—Every possible step has been taken to complete the construction.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** Sir, did Government not find any suitable land except the one given by Murleidhor Jalan ?

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education) :** There was no suitable land for the purpose of construction of the school.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Was it a condition imposed by the donor of the land that the High School should be named after him ?

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA :** Sir, Government thought that it would be advisable to link up his name with the institution.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** What is the total area of the land ?

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA :** Twenty-five bighas, Sir.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** What is the total price of the land ?

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA :** The price is Rs.1,87,500.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Did Government think it proper to give the name of a school belonging to the State after the name of a private person simply for a sum of Rs. one lakh and odd ?

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA :** No, Sir, he is going to construct the building at a cost of Rs. 2,74,000 in addition to the cost of the land.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** Has not Government got the means at its disposal to construct the building of the school with such a hoary tradition that it should be named after a private individual ?

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education) :** No, Sir, Government have sufficient means at their disposal.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** What is the reason then of giving a name of the school after a private individual ?

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA :** Sir, it is because Government thought that the plot of land has been donated by him for the purpose and so it will be more suitable and proper to name the school after him.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** In view of the suitability of the land, could not Government have acquired the land ?

***Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA :** Government thought that if the land could have been acquired, it would have cost Rs. 1,87,500 in addition to the cost of construction of the school building.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Should we then say that Government should sell out the prestige of the State to a private individual ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Next question.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Sports Council in Assam

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) asked :

103. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

(a) The steps taken for improvement of sports in Assam ?

(b) The financial help given to the Sports Council in Assam since its formation ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

103. (a)—Government have set up a State Sports Council in Assam with a view to develop all-round activities of games and sports.

(b)—A grant of Rs.2 lakhs was given to the Sports Council during 1956-57.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Sir, may I know how the State Sports Association distribute this grant to the District Sports Associations ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA: Sir, it is up to the District Sports Council to decide.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: How the money is distributed among the District Sports Associations ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Sir, may I draw your attention to the rules ? Are we going to the unstarred question ?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have followed the hint given by the hon. Member. I made a mistake because in the Lok Sabha, the Short Notice Question is taken up immediately after the other questions are over. But it so happens that in this House it gets precedence over other questions. But this is a departure which will not be followed in future. This is a confusion on my part because at the back of my mind, I had the Lok Sabha Rule.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMA (Minister, Finance): Sir, the rules ought to have been amended. The Lok Sabha rules are healthier. I am suggesting that the rules should be amended.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot question the wisdom of those who framed these rules as the rules were designed to suit certain conditions. So, if the hon. Members feel inclined that the rules should be amended, that can be done.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I think the Hon'ble Finance Minister is right in saying that there is a necessity of changing the rules. But so long as the rules have not been changed, perhaps, we are bound by existing rules.

Mr. SPEAKER : As I said, this is a confusion which was due to my confusing the Rules of this Assembly with Lok Sabha Rules. So, I do not propose to repeat this in future.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : How the money is distributed among the Sports Associations or Councils in different Districts ?

*** Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education) :** Sir, I can give the hon. Member the amount distributed to different districts. Construction of a stadium at Gauhati—Rs.1,06,500. Improvement of play grounds in rural areas in different districts—Rs.6,000. Improvement of the extended play ground at Nowgong—Rs.5,500. Improvement of the play ground at Jorhat outside the stadium—Rs.6,000 and extension of office buildings at different districts—Rs.2 lakhs.

Surfacing of Tihu Feeder Road

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Pathacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

104. Will the Public Works Department Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Tihu Feeder Road is going to be surfaced ?

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

104.—A Scheme for surfacing of the Bazar portion of Tihu Feeder Road at a cost of Rs.20,000 has been included in the Supplementary Programme of Road Fund Works amounting to Rs.40 lakhs to be sent up to India shortly for approval. The work can be taken up only when India's approval and financial sanction is received.

The Credit Societies in Kamrup District

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

105. Will the Minister in-charge of Co-operative be pleased to state—

- (a) How many credit societies were organised in the Kamrup District during 1956-57, and how many of them are larger size limited societies ?

- (b) How many of them are since registered and how many of them are lying without registration ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative) replied :

105. (a)—Two hundred and twenty-six credit societies in the year 1956-57 of which 11 are larger size limited societies.

(b)—Out of 226 organised societies, 214 societies have since been registered and 12 societies are pending registration.

Anti-Social Element Operation in North Kamrup

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

106. Will the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(a) How many persons were arrested in connection with the last anti-social element operation in North Kamrup ?

(b) How many of them are Tribals and how many are non-Tribals ?

(c) How many of them were convicted ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) replied :

106. (a)—It is presumed that operations against the R. C. P.I. in 1951 are referred to. If so, 895 persons were arrested in that connection.

(b)—Three hundred and fifty-eight of them are Tribals and 537 are non-Tribals.

(c)—None.

Conversion of annual pattas to periodic pattas

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) asked :

107. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) When the order for conversion of annual pattas to periodic ones were enforced by Government ?

- (b) What is the total area that has been converted into periodic since its enforcement (figures to be supplied district by district)?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

107. (a)—On 4th July, 1955.

(b)—The area converted into periodic and so far reported by the local officers is as follows:—

1. Kamrup district	...	2,321B	2K	11L.
2. Goalpara district	...	Nil		
3. Darrang district	...	5,060B	2K	4L
4. Nowgong district	...	496B	0K	10L
5. Sibsagar district	...	82B	0K	4L
6. Lakhimpur district	...	1,864B	2K	4L
7. Cachar district	...	423B	2K	3L

Loss of cattle by Rinderpest epidemic

Shri BISHNU LAL UPADHYAYA (Gohpur) asked :

108. Will the Minister-in-charge, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry, be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the estimation of Government of the loss of cattle population by Rinderpest epidemic which is in full swing even now in the Tezpur Subdivision?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that Serum is not available at Gauhati in order to cope with the disease?
- (c) What measures the Government propose to take to combat this situation?

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

108. (a)—The information is not available. A report has been called for from local officers and it will take some time to collect and compile them.

(b)—No.

(c)—The Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department has already issued instructions to all District Animal Husbandry Officers (Vety:) to take up mass vaccination against Rinderpest. Steps have also been taken to restrict cattle movement for sale both from outside and affected areas and arrangements have been made to examine such cattle by Veterinary staff.

Shri BISHNU LAL UPADHYAYA (Gohpur) : Is it not a fact that special messengers from Tezpur, Biswanath National Extension Service Block, Behali and Dubia had to return without having serum from Gauhati ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary) : Sir, Government have no such information, but it is likely to happen because serums are being manufactured in Ijatnagar only in India and this Government obtain them on request. But due to communication and other difficulties we do not get regular supply occasionally.

Shri BISHNU LAL UPADHYAYA : What relief by way of financial help or cattle loan is given to them who sustained a heavy loss of cattle ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : The Veterinary Department does not deal with the cattle loan ; it is done by the Revenue Department. I can inform the hon. Member that Revenue Department is issuing both cattle loan and agricultural loan. So far as the Veterinary Department is concerned, Government has adopted a policy of issuing loan liberally to the people affected to purchase livestock of improved variety.

Re: Fishery loans in Mangaldai Subdivision

Shri DANDI RAM DUTTA (Mangaldai) asked :

109. Will the Minister-in-charge of Pisciculture be pleased to state what are the amounts of fishery loans granted during 1956-57 in the Mangaldai Subdivision and how many applications to this effect were received ?

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

109.—No fishery loans were granted during 1956-57 in the Mangaldai Subdivision. Three applications were received.

Re : Dacoities in Cachar District

Maulana ABDUL JALIL CHOUDHURY (Badarpur) asked :

110. Will the Minister-in-charge of Home be pleased to state—

(a) How many cases of dacoity had occurred in the district of Cachar in 1956-57 ?

(b) The number of murders committed in the said dacoities ?

(c) Whether there were cases of murders committed under Katigora Police Station during the said period ?

(d) If so, what steps Government have taken to stop the incidence of such crimes ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) replied :

110. (a)—(1) 1956 19.

(2) 1957 10.

(b)— Nil.

(c)—(1) 1956 Nil.

(2) 1957 1.

(d)—Regular night patrol carried out jointly with members of Village Defence Parties.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

Dislocation of Railway and Road Communication between Rangiya and Nalbari due to flood

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) asked :

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

- (a) Whether owing to the rivers Baralia, Nona and Pagladiya in spate, flood havoc has taken place recently in Kamrup District ?
- (b) Whether this flood has dislocated both railway and road communication between Rangiya and Nalbari due to breaches in the railway line and the North Trunk Road ?
- (c) Whether embankments of the said rivers have been washed away at places ?

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

1. (a)—Yes. Due to sudden and extraordinarily high floods in the rivers Baralia, Nona and Pagladiya, some portions of the basins of these rivers have suffered inundation recently in the Kamrup District damaging crops and affecting 13,495 families in 255 villages of 9 Mauzas.

(b)—Road communication has been dislocated between Rangiya and Nalbari since the 17th June last due to submergence and breaches on the 97th mile of the North Trunk Road.

Regarding railway communication between Nalbari and Rangiya, train services were suspended from about 1-30 hours of 21st June to 5-00 hours of 24th June, due to the girders of bridges at mile 228/3-5 and mile 23/24-25 submerged in water. There was no breach in the railway line.

(c) Yes.—Baralia left embankment breached at two places in 5th and 8th mile. Nona right embankment breached at one place in 7th mile. Pagladiya left embankment breached at three places near villages Katra and Kumarikata and North Trunk Road. Pagladiya right embankment breached at three places near villages Dhontola, Murikona and Ulabari.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Is it a fact that towards the north of the railway line there was no embankment on the western bank of the river Nona ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, P.W.D.): Maybe, I can not say.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Is it a fact that the embankments which have been breached were badly made ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: No, Sir, it was properly made.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Is it a fact that in certain places the embankments were cut by some persons ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: At one place it was cut by some persons and in another place it is suspected to be cut but I have not yet received any definite report.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: What was the reason of the embankments being cut by persons ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: This requires inquiry; I cannot say off hand.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Is it a fact that many families were left in between the river and the embankment without any alternative provision of land and therefore these families in order to save themselves cut the embankment ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: It is not a fact. Provisions have been made and in fact in some cases, I know, Rs.300 per family was taken by them on the condition that they would shift to the other side of the embankment, or to a safer site but after taking the money they have not shifted.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :

Is it a fact that those persons were given Rs.300 but were not given any alternate land where they might shift ?

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

That it not a fact. I can say this much from my memory that the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, allotted lands to such persons of Nalbari in a site in Nalbari and Tihu Circles and persons of Rangiya Circle in Rangiya and Tamulpur Circles.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Is it a fact that after the embankment was washed away it was found that at the bottom of the embankment some bushes and bamboos were there instead of earth ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : I have no such information. I shall enquire into the allegation made by the hon. Member.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Is it a fact that in the embankment near village Katpoha this sort of irregularity did occur and as a result of that the entire family was washed away ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : I have no information.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North) : You say from memory. (Laughter).

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Is it a fact that at a point near village Murikona the embankment was much below the general flood level and as a result of that the embankment made a breach and that damaged the crops of the entire area on the east of the embankment ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : I have already replied that the embankment was constructed according to plan and estimate.

Effect of Floods to Crops, Properties, Human life, etc., due to the Baralia, Nona and Pagladia in spate

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)
asked :

2. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether owing to the rivers Baralia, Nona and Pagladia in spate and consequent flood havoc, crops and other properties have been damaged ?

(b) Whether the flood has caused any loss of human life or cattle ?

(c) What steps have been taken by the Government to cope with the situation ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

2. (a) Yes from a telegraphic report received from the Deputy Commissioner, it appears that floods have affected 13,495 families in 255 villages of 9 Mauzas as shown below :—

		Mouza		No. of villages	No. of families
Nalbari Circle	...	1. Bahjani	...	17	2,000
		2. Uttar Barkhetri	...	41	300
		3. Dharmapur	...	99	800
		4. Khetri Dharmapur		9	495
		5. Pakoa	...	6	300
		6. Khata	...	25	2,500
		7. Upper Barbhag	...	45	6,000
		8. Natun Dehar	...	3	400
		9. Batahgila	...	10	700
				<hr/> 255	<hr/> 13,945

Thirty-five houses are reported to have been washed away in Upper Barbhag Mouza. Extensive damage to crop is also reported. Exact figures of loss are not yet available.

(b)—Two children aged 3 and 5 years of Parasuram Mistry of Kamarkuchi were washed away in the morning of 22nd June, 1957.

Some cattle and horses are reported to have been lost in Upper Barbhag Mouza.

(c)—Immediately on receipt of information Government sanctioned Rs.15,000 as gratuitous relief and the Deputy Commissioner was asked to go ahead with relief measures.

Upto noon of 25th June, 1957, the Deputy Commissioner had distributed 250 maunds of rice, 45 maunds of Chira and some quantity of gram as gratuitous relief. Bhusi obtained locally was being distributed for cattle as fodder.

Arrangement has also been made for supply of another 500 maunds of rice from Central Government godown at Tihu.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Is there no information about Rangiya Circle, Sir?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Not as yet, Sir.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: How long will the Government take to get the information of extensive damages in the Rangiya Circle?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: The Deputy Commissioner was already instructed to rush relief measures according to his discretion and, therefore, he need not wait for sanction of money from here. The Deputy Commissioner will first give relief measures and then submit his report to us.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Whether the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, was asked to submit his report about the extensive flood damages in Rangiya Circle?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Exactly Rangiya Circle only was not mentioned, but wherever the flood damages occurred, the Deputy Commissioner was asked to submit his report as early as possible.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Whether Government is aware that extensive flood damage has taken place in Rangiya Circle also and whether the Government think that correct report of the situation in Rangiya Circle is also necessary ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : We shall ask the Deputy Commissioner to submit the report.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Whether Government has asked the Deputy Commissioner to expedite sending his report of the actual situation ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : That we shall ask the Deputy Commissioner to do immediately, but at the same time it requires some amount of time, as house-to-house survey requires time. Almost every day we are sending telegrams. If the hon. Member wants we shall send one telegram to day also.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : May I suggest.....

Mr. SPEAKER : No suggestion.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : I think I may put a suggestion for eliciting information.

Mr. SPEAKER : You may put your question.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Will it be possible for the Minister-in-charge to take a first hand knowledge of the real situation by a visit to the locality himself within a reasonable space of time ? If he has no objection he may take me along with him.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : It is not possible to visit the area within a reasonable space of time now as the Assembly is in session. After the Assembly session is over, I may visit the area personally and I may also have a talk with my Friend.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, in view of the fact that the flood took place as early as 17th June last and in view of the fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, has not thought it proper to send his report to the Government yet, will the Minister-in-charge consider it necessary to visit that area himself within a week after the session is over ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : As a matter of fact the Deputy Commissioner has sent very correct and detailed report about Nalbari Circle. About Rangiya Circle we have not received the report as yet. If my Friend wants, we may send one reminder to-day. There may be other areas affected in the meantime and as a matter of fact some reports have come from the Deputy Commissioner that there has been some more flood damages.....

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is regarding the flood damages caused by the three rivers—Baralia, Nona and Pagladia—so the Hon'ble Minister may only answer to the extensive flood damages caused by the three rivers only and not in other areas.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Whether Government is aware that the rivers Baralia and Nona pass through Rangiya Circle and not through Nalbari Circle ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : I have no knowledge of the locality. We are not concerned with the rivers but we are actually concerned with the damage caused by the flood. So far flood water is concerned and whether it passes through Rangiya Circle or Nalbari Circle, that is the matter for the P.W.D. Minister. I am not concerned with the flood water but I am concerned with the damage caused by flood.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : The P. W. D. Minister has replied that the flood water of the three rivers—Baralia, Nona and Pagladia—has done damage to road communication between Rangiya and Nalbari Circles and in view of non-receipt of report from the Deputy Commissioner, will the Minister-in-charge think it proper to make a first hand enquiry by himself ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : I am not concerned with damage done to communication ; that is the matter for the P. W. D. Minister, but when there is flood and damage is done, I come into the picture.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Whether the Government consider that the reliefs given up till now would be sufficient ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Yes, and Government propose to rush in more help to the affected areas in the near future. We are not to rush such relief measures from here but

the Deputy Commissioner and his entire staff are doing everything to render all possible help to the people and money will be sanctioned subsequently formally.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Is there any limit up to which the Deputy Commissioner can give relief measures?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Up till now there is no limit.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: In the matter of giving relief to the affected people, do Government propose to supply seeds to the cultivators so that they may cultivate Sali and Rabi crops?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: That is a different matter altogether. There are gratuitous relief and long term loans.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I am speaking of gratuitous relief and not loans. My question is whether Government will provide the affected cultivators with seeds as gratuitous relief?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: When seed comes, the question of loan arises. Seed and paddy are not the same thing. We want to save life first and then give seed as loan.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): Seed বননে loan কি কবে আরে?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Is it a fact that the entire crops have been damaged by the flood?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Sir, I cannot say that just now.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Does this damage include crops also?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Yes.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: If there has been damage to the crops, do Government consider it necessary to grant relief to the cultivators by giving them seeds so that they can raise another crop?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: That is a separate thing. For the moment the best thing is to save their lives then the question of giving reliefs comes in.

**Statement by the Speaker about the measures taken
for speedy disposal of questions that were
admitted and sent to Government Departments
for answers**

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the House takes up to-day's list of business, I want to make two statements.

Yesterday, the hon. Member from Karimganj-North raised the point that the questions for which notice has been given for a period much longer than 15 days have not been brought before the House. He also mentioned that hitherto questions were placed before the House in a lump at the end of the Session with the result that the House could not be seized of them. I immediately brought it to the notice of the Chief Minister and suggested to him that questions for which informations can be collected from the Civil Secretariat, Shillong, may be immediately placed before the House. Efforts should be made to expedite the collection of informations from the districts wherever such informations are necessary. There may be questions for which part of the information is available at the Civil Secretariat, Shillong, and part of the information has to be collected from the districts. In such cases, parts of replies, based on information available here, may be given without delay. I am glad to inform the House that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has been pleased to accept these suggestions and he has informed me that he has taken immediate action accordingly.

**Re: Procedure to be followed in the discussion
of Appropriation Bill**

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up the Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 1957. Before the House takes up the Appropriation Bill for discussion I would draw the attention of the hon. Members to the practice followed in debating the aforesaid Bill in the Lok Sabha and in the House of Commons. This has become necessary as the Rules of Procedure of our House are silent on this point. I may here quote the practice as mentioned in May's Parliamentary Practice: "There are two main Consolidated Fund Bills every session (the second of which is enacted as the Appropriation Act). As the field which they cover is commensurate with that of the main estimates, almost any matter of administrative policy can be raised on the second or third reading of these bills, and the choice of the subjects

to be debated at these stages is, by a similar convention to that which applies to the main estimates, left to the Opposition."

In Lok Sabha, Rule 218 (4) lays down that the debate on an Appropriation Bill shall be restricted to matters of public importance or administrative policy implied in the grants covered by the Bill which have not already been raised while the relevant Demands for Grants were under discussion. The purpose of the Rule is to stop repetition of matters already discussed in order that the time of the House may be well utilised. In the light of this, I would suggest that hon. Members should confine their observations to such Demands for Grants as could not be discussed during the consideration and voting of Demands for want of time. That will ensure economy of time of the House as well as provide an opportunity to discuss certain demands which had been left out.

The Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 1957

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a message from the Governor, which is as follows:—

"Under the provisions of Article 207 of the Constitution of India, I, Saiyid Fazl Ali, Governor of Assam, recommend introduction in the Legislative Assembly of Assam of the Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 1957, and also consideration of the said Bill by the said Assembly.

FAZL ALI,
Governor of Assam".

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 1957.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 1957, be introduced.

(After a pause)

The question is that the Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 1957, be introduced.

(The Motion was adopted).

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 1957, be taken into consideration.

In accordance with the provisions made under Article 204 of the Constitution of India, the passing of an Act is necessary to provide for appropriation, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam, of all moneys required to meet the grants made by the Assembly and the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of Assam. Hence the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 1957, be taken into consideration.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of your ruling.....

Mr. SPEAKER: This is not a ruling, but a suggestion which I have made in order to utilise the time of the House in a better manner.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: We are very grateful to you for giving us this very valuable suggestion and we shall try to confine ourselves to the matters suggested by you.

As the Finance Minister said, this Bill has become necessary to enable the Executive to draw the necessary money from the Consolidated Fund for the day to day expenditure of the Government under the heads of demands passed by the House. Sir, so far as different grants are concerned, they have already been passed by the House and I have no mind to discuss them. But in this connection I may say that due to paucity of time at our disposal we could not do proper justice to the different heads of demands. They involved several crores of rupees and yet we had to pass them almost without discussion. If there would have been elaborate discussion on the subject, I think Government also would have been benefited by it because they would have known the mind of the people through their representatives, as to how the money paid from the public exchequer should be spent. Now that the demands have been passed, it is for the Government to see that they are spent in

terms of the details given in the Budget. Our past experience in this respect is not very happy and, therefore, only with a view to suggest, with all humility to the present Finance Minister, that the same thing may not occur again, I propose to make a few observations.

Sir, in the past we have seen at the time of preparing the Budget, that a proper and accurate estimate is not made. Some sort of cursory demand is placed irrespective of the actual necessity of the Department concerned. The result is that we find variation in the revised estimates to a very great extent from the original voted demand ; thereafter, when the actuals come we find that they again differ from the revised estimates. That shows that the original preparation of the Budget was far from accurate and correct.

Then another factor which is always noticed is that due to non-understanding of the actual state of affairs, there comes huge amount as demands under supplementary grants. Sometimes it so happens that if the amount originally demanded be only Rs.5,000, a Supplementary Demand comes for Rs.5,00,000. Now, Sir, at the time of discussion of the supplementary demands we are always in a disadvantageous position, because at that time it is said that once this House has accepted the principle of the demand, the House cannot go again to discuss the general principle at the time of Supplementary Demand. The discussions in this House are sought to be confined only to that particular amount—either say “Yes” or “No”. Sir, it is one thing to agree, even as a matter of principle, to a sum of Rs.5,000, while it is another thing to agree to a sum of Rs.5,00,000. Therefore, Sir, this time at least let us hope that in our financial affairs the *guti seed* will not be longer than *kerala* (*gourd*) itself—“কেবলাতৈক যাতে গুটি দীঘল নহয়” For the last five years, we have seen that the supplementaries always overshadowed the general demand.

Then, another point which has been agitating our mind is that there are quite a large number of Government Resolutions for reappropriation ; that is to say, this Assembly passed a particular Demand for a particular item as given in the details of the Budget. Now, Government on its own changes one item for another. For example, under the head ‘Education’, we have voted about rupees four crores, and we have also seen in the detailed budget that so much would be spent for colleges, so much for secondary schools and so much for basic schools and so on. What actually happens in the real implementation ? The amount which is earmarked for a particular purpose is transferred to another head. Then Government comes forward

with a Resolution for re-appropriation. Why does this happen? Because at the time of preparing the Budget, the Government or the Department concerned could not decide its mind. They think that somehow or other money should be brought. So, Sir, this Assembly ultimately becomes a rubber stamp and if this Assembly is not taken into confidence with regard to different projects, schemes and plans, and divisions and subdivisions of heads of accounts, there is no reason to discuss the general Demand in this House as shown in the detailed Budget. This is rather a bitter experience which we have been experiencing for the last five years. We expect that at least this year and in the years to come we will not experience again such a horrible thing. It may, of course, be said that so far as Supplementary Demands and also Resolutions on re-appropriation are concerned, sometimes it is irresistible and unavoidable, because situation always cannot be foreseen. We appreciate that difficulty arises from unforeseen situation. On the emergence of a new situation, a Supplementary Demand and a Resolution on re-appropriation is to provide money. But if unforeseen situation, which is an exception, becomes the rule then we may say that we are living in an eternally abnormal situation. I think that the abnormality of the situation is not outside, but inside the Department itself. My submission, therefore, is that the Finance Minister should see that all the Departments do conform to the Demand as passed by the Legislature, and that they do not go willingly for such Supplementary Demand, etc., as they have been doing in the past. So far as I could see, this sort of anomaly arises because the Departments have actually no plans. For example, they do not make proper estimate and do not measure the necessity with sufficient amount of attention and carefulness. So this sort of irregularities does occur not only once or twice but several times.

Then, Sir, under certain heads, certain amounts have been granted. We expect that these amounts should be properly spent, because so far as actual spending is concerned, it is a matter for the Executive. Sir, let me cite one instance. There is a Grant under the head—Displaced Persons. Now, if the amount is not spent properly then whatever amount might be given, it will not solve the problem. We have seen in some places that there have been efforts on the part of the Government to conceal the truth. The first truth that was concealed is with regard to the number of refugees in our State for reasons best known to the Government. They do not give the correct figure of the refugees. They always give understatement with the result that at the time of getting money from the Central

Government, we always become defaulter and get less because we give the number of refugees as much less than those who are actually in our State. As a result, we are given less amount of money than that given to West Bengal or Orissa, for example.

Now, so far as those people, who are known as displaced persons, who have come to our State as refugees, are concerned, they are here permanently. Whether we rehabilitate them or not, they will be in our State, and if they remain in our State without being rehabilitated, not only will there be greater suffering for them but also there will be heavier burden for the State as a whole, because these people have got mouths. Somehow or other they are to fill their bellies. So we should see, without any hesitation, that some plan is evolved not only to rehabilitate the displaced persons but also create conditions where they do not become a national burden, not only demoralising the economic situation of the State but also the moral and social standard. We find that the amounts which we had spent during the last five years were not spent for the actual implementation of the schemes, as there had been a great deal of anomaly. We hope that the Government this time will see that the amounts earmarked for a particular purpose is properly spent. We do not understand why after 10 years of Partition, there should remain such anomalies in the rehabilitation of those people who are known as refugees or displaced persons. Why should there be another class of people in the State? Why will they remain as displaced persons for decades? Is it not a slur on our administration and on our national life? Let us hope that within a few years there will be sufficient headway for proper rehabilitation of these persons so that within two or three years there will be no refugee or displaced person in our State, in order to strengthen further unity and to improve further productive capacity of our people.

Secondly, Sir, we have found that in different Departments, specially in those which we expected to be guarding the interest of the State, there have been great deal of irregularities—I should say, corruption. Our Finance Minister happens to be also the Minister-in-charge of the Supply Department. Let me give a few instances of irregularity and corruption in this Department. Here, in the Supply Department, there is a Section known as the Supply Accounts, and this Section is so very important that a Deputy Director has been placed in-charge of it so that in the matter of accounts of the Supply Department, there is no anomaly, no irregularity, and so that the interest of the State is maintained and some wicked

persons may not take advantage of the State fund or State patronage for their personal ends. Sir, as a result of the inefficiency and corruption prevalent in the Accounts Section of the Supply Department our public exchequer has suffered a great deal. Of course, this is a matter of the past, and I have brought in these matters for discussion only with a view to give us caution for our conduct in the future. Sir, during the war years, when there was a great scarcity of all daily necessities of life in this State, our Government had appointed an agent in Calcutta—Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company for the supply of food-stuffs and other necessities of every day life. This Agency in its turn, had appointed a number of distributing agents in this State, and it was the duty of the Supply Accounts Department to see that the agents here get some concessions for the labour and efforts that they had done but that they could not make any unreasonable and illegal profit. But Sir, when these agencies became defunct, and when they came to be popularly known as “defunct agencies” and when the settlement of accounts with them became an urgent matter, our Supply Accounts Department bungled the whole affair and made the State suffer thousands of rupees, rather lakhs of rupees. To cite one instance, Messrs Shaw Wallace and Company had certain charges on the Government on account of their shrinkage and also on account of wastage. A percentage was fixed to be given as rebate to this agent on this account. But our Supply Accounts Department not being satisfied with giving the amount as earmarked by the agreement, gave the agents several lakhs of rupees in addition to what they were entitled to get, and this happened as late as the last General Election days. After all, when money is to be paid from the public coffer, we should be very cautious. Whether it is the action of a Minister, a Secretary or a Deputy Secretary or a Deputy Director, they should see the file and examine the matter thoroughly. But when our *ex-Finance* Minister was busy in electioneering campaign in that interior constituency of Morigaon, the Deputy Director of Supply (Accounts) ran as far as Marigaon with a view to get the signature of the Minister for certain payments to be made to the sub-agencies of Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company. At that time the hon. Minister did not consider it necessary to examine the papers and precedents, and the Deputy Director, for reasons best known to him, had misled him with certain information, and as a result of that the Government had to pay certain amounts which Government ought not to have paid. Sir, in this respect the Deputy Director of Accounts went from Shillong to Morigaon, and he drew his usual T. A. Sir, if

this had been a matter of great public importance and urgency, then this sort of haste on the part of the Deputy Director or as a matter of that, on the part of the Government, would have been quite understandable. But when accounts can be kept pending and correspondences were going on from years back, what could be the reason for which the Deputy Director of Supply could not wait till the elections were over? The reason is quite apparent. They were, perhaps, apprehensive of the result of the election. They, perhaps, thought that nobody knew what would be the shape of the Government, who would be the Finance or Supply Minister. So, they thought "let us make the hay while the sun is shining", and therefore, this unholy haste. Then again, Sir, in this Department there have been kept persons in very important positions who are not passed accountants. Those who were experienced in the line having academic qualifications to audit have been transferred from this department so that these things can be made happy family affairs. Sir, they might be happy family affairs for a few individuals, but so far as the State is concerned, it creates a very serious situation. Therefore my request to the present Minister for Supply is to carefully examine the question of the "defunct agencies". I most humbly repeat that the present Supply Minister should carefully examine the question of the defunct agencies with a view to see whether this extra haste was actually warranted; what had been paid to Messrs. Serugi and Company and Goenka Company, Surma Valley Supply Syndicate etc., and whether they were paid in haste by the Deputy Director running up to Nowgong while the then Finance Minister was on tour. I hope, all these will be very carefully and thoroughly examined.

Then, Sir, we have also seen in this department that there takes place a great deal of temporary misappropriation, or misappropriation due to lack of supervision and control of the controlling officers. These things come to the Public Accounts Committee. The Public Accounts Committee gives strictures and gives also suggestions to take necessary steps. Steps generally taken are that the dealing Assistant is either sacked or a Police case is brought against him or he is suspended and so on, but the man who is responsible for the department, the man who handles the key, who signs the cheque that man escapes leaving the entire blame on the dealing assistant or on a certain small fry. If every department is to be run thoroughly and properly, if the money granted by this House is to be spent honestly to the last pie, it is to be seen by the Government that those who are in charge of the department, *i.e.*, those officers,

should be held responsible for whatever irregularity is committed for that department. Sir, I am not going to hold any brief for the corrupt office assistants. What I am submitting is that in addition to these small fries, the big guys should not also be allowed to escape. In a case relating to the Supply Department, we know that no less a person than the present Chief Secretary was himself involved in a cheque. And we know this as it found mention in the Public Accounts Committee's Report which was placed before this House. It is no longer a secret matter. But nothing could be done to the Chief Secretary who was responsible for this. Because he happens to be a very big guy and not a small fry. My submission, therefore, to the present Finance Minister is to see that in order to make the administration clean the different heads of Departments and Secretaries of different Departments should be asked to be more alert and to be more careful and the Minister should see that they conform to the rules. We have seen in the past that those rules are often violated and the same criticism is to be repeated year after year in the Audit Reports and also in the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee. Sometimes it is said that this is because the Estimates Committee is not functioning in the State and therefore the different Departments do not get proper guidance about the actual expenditure to be made and this Legislature also cannot go beyond the general remarks on the different heads of the budget. We have an Estimates Committee now. We had it in the past also. But, Sir, our experience shows that though there was an Estimates Committee last year it did not sit even for a single day. There was also a Public Accounts Committee and the Audit Report also was placed on the table of this House. This Audit Report also was sent in advance to the Public Accounts Committee members but for reasons best known to the Government, the Public Accounts Committee also was not called even for a single day during the last year. Let us hope, Sir, that in order to make the budget provisions properly spent, this time at least, these two very important Committees—the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee—will be made alert and that they would be consulted as soon as it is necessary. These Committees should not be there simply for hurriedly going through the Audit Report. They should be given ample time and opportunity to study the Audit Report and the financial accounts so that they can do justice to the responsibility bestowed by this House on them. I do not want to take much more time of the House. I would only say that the House has passed the different heads of demands and it is for our executive, for the Government, to see that they justify

this faith. Unless and until the Executive is willing to be responsible to the Legislature which is by far the most important of the three arms of a State, a proper and efficient democracy cannot run. There is no doubt that we from this side of the House have made certain trenchant criticisms of different demands and it is also a fact that the Government have steadfastly defended their position. In other words, there are points on which we have agreed to differ. But ours is a country where we have accepted a form of democracy wherein there must be tolerance and at the same time criticism. We know that it is for the majority party to rule and govern. We also feel that it is the duty of the Opposition to criticise and attack when we think that the majority party is not going correctly. It is with this end in view that we have at the time of the general discussion of the budget and also at the time of granting different Demands, made certain criticism of the Government policy. But it should not be understood, Sir, that we have done it in any other spirit than the spirit of healthy constructive criticism. We know that “বেদা বিভিন্ন। নতুনোৰ্ভিন্ন। নাদ্যো বুনিন্দ্য মতং বিভিন্ন।” opinions differ and it cannot be said as an absolute truth which opinion is proved to be true ultimately. But we also know that here in our democracy we must strive to make the State like a garden where “flowers of all colours, bloom different schools of thought contend”. We have different schools of thought and it is only with this end in view that we have been exhorting upon the Government to give a little more head to the criticisms that we have made. Otherwise there is no good of making discussions and so many criticisms.

With these few words, Sir, I again wish and hope that the Government will see that the Demands passed by this House are properly spent—spent in a spirit in which the House has passed them.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are grateful to you for giving us an opportunity to discuss the items which we could not discuss at the time when we voted for the Grants. My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, has given an account of lapses of the Government during the past years so far as the Supplementary Demands and Resolutions seeking more money for new items are concerned. Sir, we know also that if there is any unforeseen expenditure for the Government to incur only in that case they are to put forward Supplementary Demand. We have bitter experience that in the past 70 to 80 per cent. of the whole Grant was of that nature and which was absolutely not unforeseen.

Secondly, Sir, my Friend has said that in the shape of Resolution they want sanction of certain items after the money has already been spent. They want to convert the House into a *post-mortem* institution, which we sitting here either on this side or that side of the House must resent. Not only that, I have also noticed that in the course of last few years they brought re-appropriation after 31st March. I had to argue with the Leader of the House once when he said that according to rule the re-appropriation could be brought after 31st March. But I told him that according to the Accounts Rule he could not do it after 31st March whatever may be the re-appropriation. What we want to impress upon the House is that why should they fear, having a majority in the House, to come forward with a proposal in the shape of a Grant, knowing thoroughly that it will be passed? What further we want to impress is that we should follow the rules which have been framed by us, the conventions which have been adopted by our predecessors and the Legislatures of other States, for our day to-day administration, and if this is done we shall be thankful to the Government because they have a huge amount for expenditure during the next year.

Sir, I will speak a few words against the rehabilitation of displaced persons. The figure is given that the total number of refugees is more than 4 lakhs in the State, but I am sorry, I cannot accept it. During the years this figure is taken, I know refugees came by several thousands and lakhs and the records maintained by the Relief Rehabilitation Department of the Government of Assam is not very exhaustive and we are afraid whether this figure is correct or not. Taking for granted that this figure is all right but the funds allotted for them are not sufficient for the purpose. What this State is doing? The past record of this State so far Relief Department is concerned is not happy. Unlike the States of West Bengal and East Punjab, this State is simply drawing money from the Central Government and they are distributing to the refugees in the shape of loan in small instalments so that the needy people as they are they swallow the money by feeding their children and the Government say that they have rehabilitated refugees in this way. I put some questions in this connection but after one month we see that they have not come to the House. You will see that some fortunate people in the Congress Party are getting loans but hundreds and thousands of genuine refugees are going without any loan. If one person can influence or approach the high officers or Minister he can get loan even in most illegal way. I can give many examples. A non-practicing lawyer

whose father and mother are still living in Pakistan came here and he got a loan of Rs.5,000 but according to rules of the Government of India and this Government he cannot get it, he is fortunate to get it because he was the Manager of the Minister in-charge of the Department at that time. We also know that 5 brothers of a joint family living together jointly, each of them got more than Rs.3,000 as loan but according to rules as they are living in a joint family they cannot get loan severally. I was told by the Hon. Speaker not to divulge the names ; so I need not divulge them but if the Minister wants the names, I am ready to give them. Such cases are innumerable. Then, Sir, there are cases of persons in which a person got Rs.5,000 as loan but whereas another person of the same category and status could not get any only because the latter belongs to P. S. P. These loans should not be distributed on these political principles but they should be given to the real needy and deserving persons, considering each case from humanitarian point of view.

Then, if you take account of how much money was distributed as loans during the one month before the general election, you will see that the maximum amount was given to Patharkandi area from which area the then Minister-in-charge contested. Is it not politics ? Of course, whatever we say Government should not take as fictitious. I can give a correct picture of the whole thing. In the light of these experiences, let us hope that in future these anomalies and lacunae should disappear. We in this side of the House will join hands with the Government if they really take this Department above party politics and distribute such loans from the humanitarian point of view. Unfortunately, during the last five years these things did not happen. In order to do this, Government should formulate a new policy so that they can tackle the situation in a better way.

Then I can give an information, if I am correct of what I was told, that Shri Khanna of the Relief and Rehabilitation Department of the Government of India said that Rs.12 crores would be spent during Second Five Year Plan in this Department in Assam. If it is correct, it is $1/5$ of the total amount of the whole amount to be spent for the Second Five Year Plan of this Government. If really so much money is spent, then there should be sufficient personnel for this purpose. The present Relief and Rehabilitation Secretary is also the Commissioner of this Department and in addition he is the Additional Finance Secretary. Of the 6 hours in a day, how much time do you

expect him to devote for the Relief and Rehabilitation Department? There is trouble from local people who are land owners and hundreds of so called touts who are sucking the blood of the refugees; in these circumstances how can you expect him to solve the problems? If you want to solve the problem in right earnest in that case you must give a Minister entirely to deal with this Department, you must have more Secretaries and Commissioners and more responsible officers. It is not the duty of the Commissioner to sit idle here but he should go from place to place and see and contact the persons and get first hand knowledge of the situation and if there is bottle-neck anywhere he should settle the problems on the spot. Therefore, my suggestion is that the department should be reshuffled in the light of my suggestions.

Regarding allotment of land to the refugees, it has been said that it is not possible for the refugees to be rehabilitated in agricultural land. Although, I dispute about it, I do not like to repeat what I said on previous occasions. Taking for granted that there is no land for this purpose but our Government said that these refugees would be given employment either in big industries or cottage industries and so on and Government also gave a long list of names for starting industries. But the unfortunate thing is that not a single industry, even cottage industry, has been started in Cachar so that refugees can earn livelihood from them.

I want to give an instance from Karimganj. The Surma Match and Industries of Karimganj submitted a scheme for loan from Relief and Rehabilitation Department and they agreed to accommodate 200 refugees in the Mill. The scheme was finalised and settled by the then Secretary and Commissioner, Mr. A. N. Kidwai. But unfortunately the loan was not sanctioned by the then Minister-in-charge probably out of personal grudge. Shri Rabindra Nath Aditya is the Managing Director of the firm. He was a Member of the House and also the Chief Whip, when the Congress was in the Opposition. But the Minister perhaps out of personal grudge and jealousy wrote in the file, "I know the man and the firm quite well. This may be filed". This is the way how men of positions are doing things.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member may say that this was not done but he should not say that it was not done out of grudge or spite.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): All right, Sir, I will leave it to the hon. Members of the House. Let them judge. I will not make any comment as instructed by the Hon. Speaker.

Now, Sir, we have also suggested that some persons in Karimganj have started ginning mills. They have started 2 factories where they have employed 700 to 800 refugee persons particularly women. The difficulty for these women was that they had to come from distant places, *viz.*, Majgram, four or five miles away from the factories. We then suggested to the Department to give them some shelter so that they can live there and earn their livelihood from the ginning mills. But this was not done. We want also that ginning mills should be enlarged, and at least one item of processing should be learned by the refugees in which case they will earn some money. So, I again request the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to consider these points and start some industries so that the people in the district can be rehabilitated in a better way.

Sir, another thing I want to say is about the destitute home in Karimganj. Sir, if my information is correct, this is the biggest destitute home where more than 700 inmates are staying. It was started probably in 1950 and during these five or six years nothing for them was done to construct a building. They are now living in a thatched house. Unfortunately we learn that a big palatial building was constructed in Nowgong and these women are required to be dragged there. But these women do not like to leave Karimganj and want to remain there. Could not Government acquire three or four bighas of land for construction of a permanent house for the destitute women of Karimganj? The other day, when Mrs. Chanda wanted to know from the Government whether Government have dropped the scheme of construction of a destitute home at Silchar, the Minister told me to forget all about the past and hope for the future. But the future is not near that is after three or four years. At least one permanent destitute home with all facilities should be constructed in Cachar District and Karimganj also.

Sir, another point is that the camp authorities in Karimganj and in some other parts also are not admitting new entrants of destitute women because there is very limited number of seats. It was the practice before, as settled by the Government of India even when there is no space in the camps, destitute women were allowed to live outside the camp. They will be allowed free ration and other facilities of the camp. But very recently the Government of India stopped that system. This could not now be done by the Special Officers in the district. The present system is that in case of new cases of destitute women, each and every petition should go to Delhi for sanction which can be explained in the way that Delhi

does not like to incur additional expenditure in this connection. But I will tell you, Sir, that Shri Jawaharlal Nehru must remember that solemn assurances he had given at the time of partition of the country, must not fall through from their commitments. In case of destitute women full responsibility with their children had been taken by Government. I would ask my Government and the Minister-in-charge here that instead of having sanction from Delhi in each case, they must get orders from Delhi so that the destitute women can be given free ration by the Special Officer himself in-charge of the district, otherwise it will take six or seven months for the sanction to come from Delhi. With these few words, I hope better things will be done by the Government, and if necessary they may call our help and we are ready to help them, if these rehabilitation matters are taken outside the purview of politics.

Mr. SPEAKER : I may not say I am limiting the speech of the hon. Member but I may request him to be brief.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): Sir, the second thing which I had a mind to discuss during the budget discussion but I could not do that. That is about the Rural Development Department.

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. Just as I have said, it will be convenient to the House as well as for better utilisation of the time if the hon. Members only concentrate on such items which were guillotined.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : This was guillotined, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : If it was in consonance with the general procedure, the hon. Member may mention it.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Sir, regarding Rural Development Department I would like to make a few observations. The Panchayats which had been set up by our Congress Government was a dream of Mahatma Gandhi and through these Panchayats the Government want to take us to the Ram Rajya. So, if Government follow the principle of Mahatma Gandhi, these Panchayats are the most important organs of the State. I would speak a few words as to how our Panchayats are controlled and run. Sir, first of all, I shall speak about the Development Boards which control the Panchayats. At the very beginning, the Development Boards as we have seen comprise of Subdivisional Officer as the Chairman, and all officers of different Departments as members. Members of Legislative Assemblys and Chairman of Local Bodies

are also members. Subsequently, we have seen that the District Congress President and District Congress Secretary also are members of the Development Boards. Now we have seen that many people who are not liked by the people nor have any representative character are being nominated by the Government. Is it because to get a majority in the Board of a particular political party? Why then other recognised parties are not nominated? The representatives of the people must be associated with the development works otherwise, it would have been better to give the money to the District Congress Committee instead of making a hypocrisy in the name of Development Board.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The word hypocrisy would be unparliamentary.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: If it is unparliamentary I am not using the word. We want straight things. Secondly, regarding the delimitation of a constituency of a Panchayat, this was done by the persons in the Congress with the connivance of the Development Department, the other parties have no say and it was not done well. One place is connected with another place only for communal representation. So the delimitation should be done properly. Secondly at the time of election it has been pointed out that there should be proper voters' lists. But what is going on? A date is fixed by Government for election. In this connection I can cite innumerable cases, for example, in Lakhi Bazar Panchayat a date was fixed, say tomorrow, but just one day before the election, a telegram came from the Government that the date is postponed for the reasons best known to Government. The people have already spent money for the election. But in the last day the telegram came postponing the election only because the party in power, i.e., the Congress Party failed to get the majority. I can tell you, Sir, that the other party has no authority in Shillong. In this way I can give four or five more instances where elections have been postponed like this at the last moment. Sir, in some other constituencies elections were held but in other constituencies no elections could be held because they got information by express telegrams from Government to postpone the elections; so no election could take place in spite of the fact that money has already been spent for the purpose. Therefore, Sir, I say that this is a shameless party politics. Sir, I do not like to repeat in this House particularly as I said that the authority in power can do any and every thing, for example, the Subdivisional Officer, Mr. Kalita, was found to be taking

active interest in politics as well as in election matters, this should not be. Sir, the President of Nilambazar Development Project had defalcated to the extent of Rs.3,000 to Rs.4,000 but as he subsequently joined the Congress party, nothing was done against him. So, Sir, I say that these things should not be there. Sir, I would request Government to see that the Panchayats which are in future the foundations of Ram Rajya should be free from all such troubles and corruptions. Thirdly, one word, Sir, regarding the finances of local bodies. we have seen that there is no fund provided for development of urban areas. In town areas of Gauhati, Shillong and other places we have seen that the condition of local bodies, particularly Municipalities, is very bad and if they are not helped by Government it is impossible for them to maintain certain standard for smooth running of the citizen life in their municipalities. During the earlier discussions in this House the previous Finance Minister gave an assurance that the entire amusement tax should go to the local bodies so also a remarkable portion from the Road tax and certain portion of the major items in the Taxation Lists should be transferred to the local bodies. So, Sir, what I say before the House is to request the Local Self-Government Minister to see his way to give more money and also provide more fund to the local bodies in order that the urban areas may be developed to some extent. Sir, at present we see there is no proper drainage, no proper road, no proper water system, no proper lighting system even in most important towns like Shillong, Gauhati, Tezpur, not to speak of Karimganj and other places, etc. So if they do not get money, it is impossible to do any improvement. So I would request the Government to provide more fund at the disposal of the local bodies in order that they can render better service to the people.

With these few observations, I hope the Government will give due importance to what I have said so that at the end of the year we need not criticise the Government for not doing this and that.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I came to this House I did not think of taking part in this discussion at all nor did I think of speaking on any item of this Appropriation Bill. But I have been forced to stand up and speak a few words on account of the distressing condition of the people here in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Sir, the food position here is very very serious indeed. If any one will come to my house in the morning he will see lots of

people waiting for speaking with me about getting rice,-rice,-rice. Many villagers also come and they say that they are in great distress because they cannot get rice as the price is so high and the Fair Price shops started by the Government cannot meet the needs of the people.....

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): Sir, can the hon. Member raise the question of food when we are discussing the Appropriation Bill?

Mr. SPEAKER: As I said, I do not like to give any ruling, but I leave it to the good sense of the hon. Member and also the House. The hon. Member will please remember not to speak on the subjects which we have already discussed. Perhaps the discussion on the food situation will come up tomorrow in the Private Member's Resolution and I hope the hon. Member will have a chance to speak tomorrow on this subject. Meantime I request the hon. Member to confine himself to the Appropriation Bill business.....

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, when will the food situation come up?

If it is coming up tomorrow, then in that case we shall discuss this subject tomorrow.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Member knows as much about the procedure of the House as I do. I am sorry I cannot say whether the subject will come up tomorrow or not.....

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Then, Sir, I do not want to speak at all about food but I want to point out another matter which has come to my notice only yesterday and which I want to bring before this House. Sir, for the sake of the knowledge of my Friend, the Medical Minister, I would like to inform him that a great deal of congestion has occurred in the Civil Hospital at hillong.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Member. I have made it very clear that at the moment we are dealing with the Appropriation Bill and so we shall have to speak on those grants which are relevant to this Bill only. Therefore, I would like that the hon. Member should confine his speech to such items as we have taken up in this House.....

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : In that case Sir, if there is such a ruling.....

Mr. SPEAKER : I do not say that it is a ruling but I leave the matter to the good sense of the hon. Member as well as the House.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : In that case Sir, I do not want to speak any more. I have however brought the matter to the notice of the Minister, Medical.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) :

माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय !

कम उद्धास्तु समस्यापर विचार विमर्श करने के उद्देश्य से मैं कर्तन प्रस्ताव पेश करनेवाला था। किंतु समय न होने की वजह से वह न हो सका। खैर! अब मैं पूर्वी पाकिस्तान से आये हुए शरणार्थी भाइयों के बारे में चन्द बातें बोलूंगा तथा उनकी दयनीय अवस्था के बारे में सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करूंगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, पूर्वी पाकिस्तान से आये हुए ये शरणार्थी खेती-बाड़ी करके अपनी जीविका चलानेवाले थे। किंतु यहाँ उनके पुनर्वासन के लिये जो ऋण दिया जा रहा है, उससे उनको खेती-बाड़ी के बदले व्यवसाय की ओर बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है—व्यवसाय के क्षेत्र में ये बिलकुल अनभिज्ञ हैं। इसलिये यह स्वभाविक है कि ये शरणार्थी व्यवसाय से लाभ उठा नहीं सकते। अलावा इसके हमने यह अकसर देखा है कि जो शरणार्थी बजार बन रहे हैं वह इन शरणार्थी भाइयों को जगह नहीं मिलती। गौहाटी में शरणार्थियों के लिये एक बजार बना है। किंतु वहाँ अब Political Institution चल रहा है। किंतु शरणार्थी के लिए जो बजार बना उसमें प्रकृत शरणार्थी को जगह नहीं मिली है। और-और जगहों में भी जहाँ-जहाँ शरणार्थी के लिये बजार बना वहाँ—प्रकृत शरणार्थियों के बदले स्थानीय मालदार व्यवसायी को जगह मिल रही है।

मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वे इन शरणार्थी भाइयों को व्यवसाय के बदले खेती-बाड़ी की ओर कृषि की ओर ही बढ़ावा दें। उन्हें अच्छी जमीन और साथ ही खेती के उपयोगी दूसरे सरंजामों की व्यवस्था कर दें! क्योंकि ये खेती-बाड़ी से पूरे अभिज्ञ हैं तथा खेती-बाड़ी में वे विशेषरूपसे सफल हो सकेंगे।

शरणार्थी भाइयों को पुनर्वासन-ऋण मिलता है। किंतु यह ऋण उन्हें एक ही बार मिलना चाहिये। अगर बार बार करके दो या तीन किस्तपर यह ऋण मिलने से उसका पूरा सदुपयोग नहीं होता है। क्योंकि इस तरह दो-दो तीन-तीन बार रुपये मिलने से ये अभावग्रस्त शरणार्थी अपने जरूरी कामों में ऋण का रुपया खर्च कर डालते हैं और बादको उन्हें हाथ मलना पड़ता है। इसलिये एक ही पुस्त उन्हें ऋणका रुपया दिलाने की व्यवस्था सरकार को करनी चाहिये।

इसके अलावा और एक बात मुझे कहनी है। वह यह है कि मेरी ही Constituency में शरणार्थी भाइयों को बसाने के लिये जमीन दी गयी है। किंतु यह जमीन बसने लायक नहीं है। यह एक टीला जमीन है। अलावा इसके इस जमीन तक जाने और आनेका कोई रास्ता नहीं है। इस स्थान में बसे हुए लोगों की कोई मवेशी नीचे की जमीन के रहनेवाले लोगों की खेती में जाय, तो अक्सर वहाँ झगड़ा हो जाता है। नीचे की जमीन पर रहनेवाले लोग अक्सर झगड़ा करते हैं कि तुम्हारी मवेशी क्यों वहाँ आती हैं। इस ओर मैं सरकार की दृष्टि आकर्षित करता हूँ।

Refugee Department के Contractors को सामान वगैरह मिलने में कठिनाई होती है। नौगाँव में Contractor को C. I. Sheets, Cement और अन्य building materials मिलने में बड़ी कठिनाई होती है। सरकार उनकी कठिनाइयों को दूर करने की कोशिश करें ताकि Refugee Department के काम उचितरूपसे आगे बढ़ सकें। आशा है, सरकार इन समस्याओं की ओर ध्यान देगी तथा इन्हें दूर करने की कोशिश करेगी।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Education): Mr. Speaker, Sir, an insinuation was made against me by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya. He alleged that the Deputy Director of Supply (Accounts) visited me at Morigan on some occasion. This is not true. As a matter of fact, the Deputy Director of Supply (Accounts) is an officer who is not competent to put up any paper before a Minister (*A voice* : একটু স্পষ্ট করে বললে আগাদেশ গুলতে সুবিধা হয়) What happened is this. Sir, during the last election for more than a month I was away from Shillong. I had my camp at Nowgong in my residence and all files were sent to me for disposal there by the various departments under my charge. The Revenue Department, the Finance Department and the Relief and Rehabilitation Department, all used to send their files for disposal to my Nowgong residence. There were some files, which needed discussion and clarification before passing of orders. Such files instead of being sent through orderlies in the usual course were sometimes taken by officers themselves to Nowgong so that after discussions with them orders could be passed. On one occasion Shri Bhuyan, Deputy Secretary, Finance Department, went to Nowgong with some files for discussion. On another occasion, Shri Iyer, I. A. S., who was Special Officer in the Finance Department, went to my Nowgong residence with some files for discussion and disposal. When Mr. Iyer went to Nowgong, the Deputy Director of Supply (Accounts) was with him. As I have stated already, the Deputy Director of Supply Accounts cannot submit any papers to Ministers direct and so there was no occasion for him to visit me at Nowgong on his own. It was Mr. Iyer, with whom he went to Nowgong.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to be able to say that barring some small points here and there, constructive criticisms offered by the various honourable Members of this House are welcomed by this Government and also they do not hesitate to pay compliment where it is due. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharjya's points and the way he dealt with them would receive a place of pride in any Legislature including Lok Sabha.

First of all, he raised that money should be spent only in terms of the amount that is given in the Demand for Grants given in the Budget. He also submitted that there should not be very great deviation in the Revised Estimate. I submit, nobody would dispute before this House which he had expounded in this connection. All lovers of democracy would surely desire that in all financial matters all our schemes to be implemented should be placed before this august House and before the accredited members of this House. This is the spirit of democracy. Sir, the Government is definitely not as he pictures it to be. I have no doubt that with the growth of democratic convention we are getting ourselves used to methods of consultation and adjustments will gradually lead us towards the goal which we all aspire. He stated that sometimes supplementary demands would come for nearly say 5 lakhs when the original grant was only Rs.500. In this connection he also gave a very homely simile that the seed containing in a gourd is longer than the gourd itself. I submit, Sir, only in extraordinary cases such thing happens, *viz.*, the estimates should be able to give a clear appraisal of the matter to the honourable Members. Although some Members criticise the administration as more top heavy, I think, Sir, you will permit me to share my feeling with the honourable Members after having been in the administration for two months or there-about that our administration is not top heavy. For example, in the Finance Department the staff is under-staffed, and it was under-manned. We have not adequate staff to scrutinise as to what amount of money is required for the developmental schemes and what amount we are spending by the time hurriedly when we have to be very careful. If we are to spend a lot of money in schemes and projects then we should not shrink from that. But I feel if we spend more money on re-inforced concrete buildings in order to accommodate a few staff, there can hardly be any justification in indulging ourselves in such things when our country is passing through a financial stringency.

Let us not imitate the prosperous countries who can build grand buildings for their service people. Let us first be

capable of affording it. Now as the hon. Member suggested, we have to draw up proper estimates. This requires adequate staff—not only man, but physical bodies—who are capable of doing it. I hope nobody will dispute that our State is effectively lacking in adequate staff in the different Departments of the Government. We will gradually regularise the irregularities which are now seen that in many cases the budget estimate is exceeded. Sir, if we spend money on items like Cottage Industry and Co-operation and such other things which go directly to increase the national income or say better standard of living, I hope, Sir, this House will grant me the indulgence to say just in the nature which has struck my hon. Friend, Shri Tripathy, that the budget estimates for Electricity is not adequate, whether we could increase it three or four times, if not more. I hope the House will only be pleased to welcome it accepting any such nation-building plan which bears direct effort. I hope, Sir, there will not be any more division in the House on points raised pointing out one thing. There has been a time when we should have advised this. Otherwise my learned Friend from Karimganj—Shri Ranendra Monan Das—who was pleased to opine that the Supplementary Demands for Grants should come only for new projects.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not a lawyer. The word “learned” is a prerogative to members of the legal profession only.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): Sir, myself being a member of the learned legal profession, if the Speaker would not grudge, I would call ‘a pseudolawyer’ as Shri Ranendra Mohan Das pretends to be. I would invite his attention to Article 205(i)(a) which runs: “If the amount authorised by any law made in accordance with the provisions of Article 204 to be expended for a particular service for the current financial is found to be insufficient for the purposes of that year or when a need has arisen during the current financial year for supplementary or additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the annual financial statement for that year”.

I lay before the House for consideration of this ‘new service’, Sir.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): Is that unforeseen, Sir?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Yes, unforeseen.

Any way, as I said earlier, we should be able to foresee a lot of things, and what could not be foreseen as from the nature of the matter itself, there are many things which could not be foreseen, and the hon. Members should be pleased to condone these. Sir, the hon. Member was pleased to say, out of a sense of despair perhaps, that this House has been converted to a 'rubber stamp'. Sir I am sorry to say, he also added that this august House is doing only 'post-mortem operation'. That may be real or true, but such statement casts serious reflection upon the House which I hope, he himself, would not welcome on a second thought. Hon. Members of this House have been elected by our people. They are here by their own right, and if they fail to exercise their right, no body is to be blamed. If Government want to hoodwink the House, then it is their duty to stand up on their legs, if they fail to do so, I can only regret and cannot come up to their help. He further said that the Government constitutes the guardian of all fund and the funds should be carefully and properly spent. Sir, we all agree with him, we are all at one with him. We can be generous with our own but when the Government deals with public funds, if the country has to prosper, if the democracy is to thrive, every one of us constituting the Government should be very careful. Sir, the only point raised by my Friend from Gauhati, I mean Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, which, I regret, I have not been able to agree, is regarding concealment of the number of refugees by this Government.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):
I was speaking of the past.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): I understand it.

I have tried to understand the implication of the charge levelled against the Government by my Friend, but I confess, I fail to appreciate the contention of the hon. Member for one reason. Because rather than to be inclined to conceal the number of refugees as contended by the hon. Member on the other side of the House, we can very well say: "We have so many refugees in our State, give us more money for their settlement." I therefore fail to understand why the number of thousands of refugees should be concealed. Any way, Sir, when such an allegation comes from the hon. Member, who, from whatever I have seen during the last few days—because I had not the opportunity to see his performances during the last

Assembly sessions as I was then not a Member of this House—speaks with the responsibility becoming of the dignified position he adorns on the floor of this House, I feel his accusation needs very careful scrutiny.

The other point is regarding the Supply accounts and Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company who was the agent of the Government of India. In this connection he refers to two other companies Serangi Company and Goenka Company. Sir, inside the four walls of the jails and the detention camps, as long ago as 12 or 13 years, we heard of the echoes of the hay days of the Supply Syndicate, and when we came out of the jails after 3 or 4 years, in the changed circumstances when some of us became the hon. Members of this House as also a large number of people engaged themselves either in electioneering or in constructive works or in bickering amongst themselves, the echo died out; because the time is the best healer, and we naturally forgot about this Syndicate evil. But with my becoming the unfortunate Supply Minister of the day, that healing effect is fast vanishing. Sir, I went through a number of reports submitted by the Department in which I read that out of the eight cases relating to procurement and distribution, only two have been brought to a close. The accounts in respect of the other six are still as baffling as they used to be, perhaps three or four years hence. I was trying to look into the voluminous records of one of these pending cases, but literally, Sir, believe me, I think I was not attacked with influenza then, I felt my temperature was running very high. The file began in the year 1942, since then it passed so many hands and the file-covers have become so dilapidated that they have got to be touched with tender care. Even then, Sir, it is not my intention to drag the matter on any further. I have not to try now to clean the Augean Stable in the traditional way, but I want to dispose of them, if I may say so, with scissors. I have instructed my Department to put up the files with precis as early as possible and I have almost made up my mind to dispose of them at the earliest possible time. So far as the claims which are outstanding, unless they appear to be clean, will be referred to the courts and will not be paid by us. Those whose records are clean *prima facie* will be accommodated to the extent they are to receive under just and proper condition, under equitable consideration. As for our receipts which have shot up with fictitious figures, I propose, with the acquiescence of the House, to send them to court giving them a certificate that we do not entertain their claims. These are the ways with which I propose to make short shift of the whole business.

We will give anxious thought and will take legal advice and if needs be we will take the opinion or service of a Chartered Accountant. But I propose to dispose of all the Supply accounts within a reasonable time, say 6 months hence or within the remaining months of this year. That is all I can say, Sir.

As regards certain Deputy Director of Supply Accounts and other matters I submit that most of what has happened are new to me and I will not conceal my ignorance of many facts which have been revealed in the course of the debate. Therefore, Sir, I feel unable to give adequate reply to these things.

I do not know about the point raised regarding our Chief Secretary and it is really unfortunate to hear this. This is an allegation which needs clarification because necessarily and naturally we have great confidence in our Chief Secretary. If there is any spot either he will clear it or the Government will have to clear it on the floor of this House.

The hon. Member has said that the Department should be clean henceforward and that it should conform to the rules. I need hardly assure the House that it will be our duty to see that the Department is as clean as the circumstances permit and that it should follow the rules. Some would perhaps like to give their own interpretation when we say that we shall try to make the Department as clean as the circumstances permit. I have no mental reservation, but at the same time we cannot forget the surrounding atmosphere. So long as we cannot bring our national character to a high standard we cannot expect a particular Department or even a particular section of people of having the high standard. I am talking of the society as a whole, the character as a whole. I do not take pleasure in saying that those who—I am not speaking of individuals alone, but of parties—criticise us to-day would perhaps not be able to give better account of themselves or have not been able to give better account of themselves even. What I mean is that we Indians residing in Assam have not been able to build up our character in general. If we could build up our national character there would have been no occasion to complain against anybody. That is the point I seek to make. My Friend also has complained that the Estimates Committee did not sit for a single day. Perhaps there were good reasons for not being able to call the Estimates Committee during the last year. But I was thinking and my thought has been reinforced to-day that if we are not entirely engaged by the Refinery

question, the next sitting of the Estimates Committee would be called perhaps within 30 days of the adjournment of this House.

Now I come to the points raised by my Friend from Karimganj. He also mentioned with greater vigour as usual that new and unforeseen Demands alone do not find their places in Supplementary Demands for Grants, but other things also come in. In course of things sometimes other Grants are coming. But we have to keep in view two things: that the Demand for Grants in the budget and the annual financial statement should contain all the items of expenditure and all the details thereon as far as practicable. In the expanding economy like ours, in the development phase like the one we have been passing through in our country, Supplementary Grants are bound to be big and different. For instance, we are budgeting certain amount for a certain purpose and it may so happen that due to causes, national or international which may be beyond our control, we may not be able to spend that required amount of money and instead of allowing this money to lapse I will perhaps approach you in due course to reappropriate this amount in other heads where we can spend it—spend it for the benefit of the people. It will be conceded by each and every Member of this House that in our expenditure every rupee spent should bring its rupee value for the benefit of the people. I hope and trust that this House will judge all our expenditure from that point of view.

Shri Ranendra Mohan Das talked of displaced persons. He also emphasised that the record of the Government is not very good. I do not know, Sir, what he means by it. But as regards Cachar District we have tried our best and further attention will be given. To start with, a Minister of our State Government was entrusted with the portfolio of Relief and Rehabilitation and if I remember aright, subject to correction, some sort of complaints arose that the State Minister was neither willing nor able to do justice to the problem of the refugees, and thereupon the Central Minister took up to deal with the work of refugee rehabilitation in Cachar directly. What happened thereafter I am not conversant with the details thereof. But one day in a standing committee meeting, if I remember aright, it was Shri Ajit Prosad Jain who said “Look here Sarmah, this does not do any good, your State should take over the work of refugee rehabilitation in Cachar District again”. I said if I remember aright, “Sir, we do not want to shirk our responsibility and we want to render our services as far as we can for our refugee brethern of the Cachar

District''. It was at the wish of the refugee people of the Cachar District perhaps that the Centre took over the work of refugee rehabilitation in Cachar and again made over to the State Government. Since then our State Minister has been holding this portfolio. The Central Minister for Rehabilitation once again told me, "Well, your refugee rehabilitation portfolio needs changing hands''. I said, "Sir, you are welcome, you are the best judge. Our State will be only too glad to abide by your wishes and instructions to change hands''. Thereafter the same Central Minister was pleased to say when I asked him how the Department was doing in this respect. He said, "It is not doing much. We have taken up this work at the wishes of those people. I know from my personal experience that nothing worth mentioning has been done at Jorhat although there is a good number of refugees and whenever I go there those friends come to me and say'' 'You are heartless people'. I told them: "There may be shortcomings in our deeds, but in our heart there is nothing against you''. I feel that though we belong to the Brahmaputra Valley, who knows, God forbid, we may some time find ourselves in such an unhappy plight. The Central Minister came to Jorhat without giving notice and we went together to try to do something. Sir, I have not talked all these things to cast our reflection, on any quarter, but I am trying to recount the history why we cannot do better. I have no doubt, Government will do its best to do something in this respect. I hope, this Government may not be accused of lacking in sympathy to these people, if I mention about changes of hands of this Department from the State to the Centre and from Centre to State and the State itself changing hands and that there may be some inherent defects to get rid of which we require help from all quarters. We want co-operation and help not only from the representatives of the refugees but as well as Members of this House and from other quarters towards ameliorating the conditions of our unfortunate brethren, the refugees. I mention this because last time when I went to Cachar in connection with election propaganda, I met different camps, different parties giving view points and these view points clashed with each other, that does not go to the benefit of the refugees themselves. My Friend, Shri Das said in course of his speech about some touts sucking the blood of the refugees. Here, I am reminded of a saying that a crow does not eat the flesh of another crow.

***Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):**
Here, it is otherwise.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :** The other day an esteemed Friend of mine came to me who was a Member of this House who calls me by my name, 'Debeswar' and said 'Look here, I am in very bad days. I have to give education to my children that is why I took up this job but since I cannot take bribe and get into corruption so I am getting enough difficulties, so take me out of this morass and put me in some other job'. That Friend of mine, who was a Member of this House and an *ex-Secretary* of a District Congress Committee, told me that he could not take bribe so he was in difficulty and was not in the good book of the people.

***Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) :** But he is taking bribe.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** I am extremely sorry to cast a bad reflection on a person who is not here to defend himself. I would request him not to speak of a person right and left, *e. g.*, if we go to see a temple, if we do not see its architecture and appreciate it but we see only crows spoiling the temple, it does not do any good to anybody.

Another point, he was pleased to refer that there is no industry in Cachar. It is also true of the State where there is not enough of industries. Therefore, we are going to devote particular attention and willing to spend as much money as we can towards industrialisation and in fact we have asked the Minister-in-charge of Cottage Industries to spend as much money as he can for this purpose.

Mr. SPEAKER : I hope the Hon'ble. Minister will not take more time as we will have to adjourn the House at 4 p.m.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Yes, Sir, I will finish soon.

For this purpose of industrialisation, we will come to this House with Supplementary Demands and I hope, our hon. Friends will support them.

Then, he mentioned about Shri Aditya's factory, about a ginning mill and destitute homes. These were not dealt with properly for some inherent defects at that time. To say about favouritism and nepotism in this regard is not welcome. I myself requested the then Local Self-Government Minister for stopping the election of the Jorhat Municipality just before the General Election. Just on the eve of the General Election,

elections of 40 or so Panchayats also had to be stopped. That does not go to reflect favouritism or nepotism.

Then regarding the points raised regarding the present food situation, this will be dealt with tomorrow at length.

My Friend, Shri Upadhaya referred to Utbastu. He also urged that there should be more technical institutions. I have dealt with the former but regarding the latter I would say that let us have combined effort to have as many technical institutions as possible and to make them success.

Another point about irregularity of issuing loans, and blaming the Government officers for this. There is a saying, that a single Tal or cymbal cannot be played single handed. In playing cymbal two pieces are necessary. In corruption also, the officers are not alone responsible, another party is responsible, who give them bribe and adopt other corrupt practices.

Thank you, Sir, I have done.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that the Assam Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1957, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.)

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) : As there is no amendment, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1957, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that the Assam Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1957, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Saturday, the 29th June, 1957.

Shillong:

The 16th May, 1958.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,
Legislative Assembly,
Assam.