

# Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

# OFFICIAL REPORT

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

# BUDGET SESSION

VOLUME I

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The 29th June, 1957



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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**

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 29th June, 1957.

**PRESENT**

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

**Mr. SPEAKER:** There are no Starred Questions to-day. We will start with Unstarred Questions.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which answers were laid on the table)

**Plains Tribal Advisory Board for the welfare of the Plains Tribal**

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

111. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government propose to constitute a body of Plains Tribal Advisory Board with Tribal M. L. As. to advise the Government for the welfare of the tribal people ?
- (b) What amount has been sanctioned during the First Five-Year Plan for the Plains tribal people ?
- (c) The amount of money spent in different heads separately for the welfare of the Plains tribal people ?
- (d) What measures have been adopted for the development of Bodo culture ?



**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister)** replied :

111. (a)—Government have already constituted a Tribal Welfare Advisory Board at the State level with some Tribal M. L. As.—Hills and Plains—and others who take abiding interest in tribal welfare to advise the Government in all matters relating to the welfare of the tribal people. A copy of the Government Resolution is placed on the Library Table.

Rs.

(b)—Amount from State funds ... 64,57,852

Amount from Central grant 1,03,27,474  
under Art.275(1) of the Constitution.

(c)—A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(d)—Since 1954-55 a scheme for granting financial assistance to organisations engaged in the promotion of tribal culture was taken up and grants have been made from that scheme to organisations working for the promotion of Boro culture as well. The Gauhati University has also started a Department of Folk-lore, etc., for carrying on a systematic study and research into the different aspects of tribal culture including Boro tribal culture. The University has been given grants for the purpose by the State Government under the same scheme.

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]**: Why all the tribal Members of the Legislative Assembly are not included in the Tribal Advisory Board ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister)**: The Board has been constituted on the lines of the Government of India. So every year there will be a change and that is the reason why all the Tribal Members of the Legislative Assembly have not been included in the Tribal Advisory Board. The idea is that at the time of constitution of the Board, this matter of associating every tribal Member of the Legislative Assembly with the development of the plains tribal area will be considered. Moreover, the number has already increased.

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS** : Whether the Chief Minister is aware of the fact that the Kacharis of Kamrup District are not represented in this Board ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI** : I think Shri Baikuntha Nath Das and Shri Rupnath Brahma are Kacharis,



and Shri Baikuntha Nath Das comes from Kamrup.

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS** [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Baikuntha Nath Das is not purely a Kachari.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: Is there any class like pure Kacharis?

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS**: Yes, Sir.

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara)**: Is there any Member from Darrang, Sir?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister)**: Shri Pakhirai Deka, Sir.

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi)**: Are Government aware that there are large number of tribal people in areas where there are no tribal Members of the Legislative Assembly?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI**: Sir, in some cases, where the number is very small, there is no.....

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA**: What do Government propose to do regarding these tribal people who have not been represented?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI**: These tribal areas are helped with grants according to the population. These grants are distributed to them along with the general grants and where there is greater population, these areas get the benefit of the general Development Plan.

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA**: Are Government aware that at the time of distribution of the Tribal Grant, the Tribal Members of the Legislative Assembly take much interest in their own constituency and not in other?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI**: The general idea is that there will be a Development Committee in each district and subdivision where the Tribal Members of the Legislative Assembly will also be represented and they will send their proposals to the State Development Committee for consideration.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA**: Has anybody from Lakhimpur District been included in this Board?



**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :** Shri Karka Chandra Doley, Member of the Legislative Assembly and Shri Lalit Kumar Doley, Member of the Legislative Assembly, are from Lakhimpur District.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Whether Government consider it desirable to include all the present Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Hills areas in the Advisory Board for tribal welfare ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI :** That aspect of the matter will be considered at the State Development Committee. But the number will be too big and it will be some sort of an assembly.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** Do Government consider it more desirable to include all the Members of the Legislative Assembly rather than to tag other people to the Board ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI :** The tribal Members, of the Legislative Assembly will get the opportunity of representing in the Board every year in rotation so that every one will get an overall picture regarding welfare and development of the tribal areas.

**Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA (Mangaldai) :** ইয়াত temporary কছাৰী মানুহ আছেনে কি ?

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY [North Lakhimpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ Tribal Member, Legislative Assembly এই Tribal Welfare Advisory Board ত represent কৰা নাই। গতগমেণ্টে অনুগৃহ কৰি এই বিষয়ে বিবেচনা কৰিবনে ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI :** There is a provision for co-option and when the Board will sit, the matter will be considered in all its aspects.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Now, we will come to the next question.

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Sir, I may make a submission here...

**Mr. SPEAKER :** These are Unstarred Questions and they should not be treated on the same footing as the Starred Questions.



**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes )]**: Anyway, this needs to be elucidated, and we have got little less than one hour, Sir now.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : As I said, there is a basic difference between a Starred Question and an Unstarred Question. Starred Questions are put down for an oral answer and the hon. Members are entitled to get answers orally. So, it will be unfair to the Treasury Benches as well as to the Speaker to treat Unstarred Questions on the same footing as Starred Questions for which the Ministers have not come prepared with answers in the House. I would ask the hon. Members not to mix up these two, and to create difficulties not only for the Members of the Treasury Benches but for the Speaker also by treating the Unstarred Questions on the same footing as Starred Questions.

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** : May I submit, Sir, that to-day there are no Starred Questions and we have got one hour.....

**Mr. SPEAKER** : Yes, I know. The hon. Members have heard what I said. It is not because of the lack of time but because the Ministers are not expected to come prepared with replies to Unstarred Questions under the rules.

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** : Sir, I do not expect that the Minister will come prepared with answers to all the supplementary questions, but we expect only that he will give answer only to those which he can answer. He may say that he cannot answer to it off-hand and wants notice for it.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : All right, the hon. Member may put.

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know what is that Resolution which is placed on the Library Table. As it is not placed on the table of each Member, and we come to know of it only now when we come here, it puts us in an awkward position. I want to know whether any hill man or any Member of the Legislative Assembly from the Hills has been included in that Committee or not ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister)** : Yes, Sir, the hillmen are also included.

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** : May I know the names, Sir?



**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** I can give the names. Shall I read them, Sir?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Yes, you may ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI:** They are—

1. Shri Rupnath Brahma, Minister-in-charge, Medical, Public Health, etc.
2. „ Khel hose Sema, Deputy Minister.
3. „ W. A. Sangma, M. L. A., Garo Hills.
4. „ Thanglura, M. L. A., Mizo District.
5. „ B. M. Roy, M. L. A., United Khasi & Jaintia Hills.
6. „ Sai Sai Terang, M. L. A., Mikir Hills.
7. „ Hamdhon Mohon Haplangbar, M. L. A., North Cachar Hills.
8. „ Lalmawia, M. L. A., Mizo District.
9. „ Hakim Ch. Rabha, M. L. A., Goalpara.
10. „ Baikuntha Nath Das, M. L. A., Kamrup.
11. „ Pakhirai Deka, M. L. A., Darrang.
12. „ Dhiesingh Deuri, M. L. A., Nowgong.
13. „ Karka Ch. Doley, M. L. A., Lakhimpur.
14. „ Omeo Kr. Das, M. L. A., Darrang.
15. „ Hareswar Goswami, M. L. A., Kamrup.
16. „ Lalit Kumar Doley, M. L. A., Lakhimpur.
17. The Chief Executive Member, United K-J: Hills District Council or his representative.
18. Shri C. Saprawnga, Member of District Council, Mizo District.
19. „ Maham Singh, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills.
20. „ Emonsingh Sangma, Garo Hills.
21. „ J. B. Hagjer, North Cachar Hills.
22. „ Satish Ch. Basumatari, Chief Organiser, Dotma Brahmasram, P. O. Dotma, Goalpara.
23. „ Jonardhan Pathak, Sarihajan, Mikir Hills.
24. One representative from Nowgong Sankar Mission.
25. One representative from Bharat Sevak Samaj, Assam Branch.
26. One representative from Adimjati Sevak Sangha, Assam Branch.
27. One representative from Ramkrishna Mission, Assam Branch.
28. One representative from Kasturba Trust, Assam Branch.
29. One tribal M. P. from Assam, represented in the Central Advisory Board for Tribal Welfare.

This Board will be for one year only, and then another Board will be constituted every year. Our idea is to associate all the members with the development works gradually every year in the district and subdivisional levels.



**Re : Sale of Gobardhan Forest Coupe No.1**

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)** asked :

112. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Gobardhan Coupe No.1 was recently advertised for sale through tenders ?

(b) If so, who were the tenderers and what were their respective tenders ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that this Coupe was ordered to be settled with one Tarun Goswami previous to the present settlement was made ?

(d) If so, what was his tender ?

(e) With whom the Coupe has been settled now and for how much ?

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Forests)** replied :

112. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The names of the tenderers along with their tendered amounts are furnished below :—

(i) Girindra Kr. Bora—Rs.9,045.

(ii) Golap Ch. Seraigi—Rs.6,315.

(iii) Abala Kanta Das—Rs.4,725.

(iv) Secretary, Kukurmara Amtola Scheduled Caste Multipurpose Society—Rs.3,801.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—The Coupe has been settled with the Kukurmara Amtola Scheduled Caste Multipurpose Society at Rs.5,842 the value of which is equal to the 2nd highest offer *minus* the 7½ per cent concession allowed to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people. The highest tendered amount was considered too high and therefore it was not accepted.



# Loss of Provident Fund money in Tripura Modern Bank

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur)** asked :

Will the Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

113. (a) What amount of Provident Fund money of each subdivision has been lost in the Tripura Modern Bank ?

(b) Whether Government has taken any step to make good the loss suffered by the poor employees of Local Boards who lost their whole life's savings for no faults of theirs ?

(c) Whether any step has been taken to realise the amounts from those who are at fault for the loss ?

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Local Self-Government)** replied :

113. (a)—Apparently the hon. Member refers to the Provident Fund money of the Local Board employees. If so the information is as follows :—

			Rs.	a.	p.
(i) Tezpur	...	...	1,29,226	4	0
(ii) Mangaldai	...	...	1,40,217	3	0
(iii) North Lakhimpur	...	...	71,300	9	6

(b) & (c)—Under rule 77 of the Model Provident Fund Rules for the Local Boards, deposits on account of the Provident Fund of the Local Boards' employees may be made with their consent in a Scheduled Bank. The Deputy Commissioners have therefore been asked to fix responsibility on the Chairmen or the members of the Boards concerned who voted for the resolution to keep the Provident Fund money of the Local Board employees in the Tripura Modern Bank without their consent and then to proceed to realise the same. The reports from the Deputy Commissioners are awaited.



**Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) :** মহোদয়, (b) আৰু (c) ত চৰকাৰে ডেপুটি কমিশ্যনাৰ সকলৰ পৰা সেই বিষয়ে এটা Report গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰ লোকেল বৰ্ডৰ কিমান টকা নষ্ট হৈছে, তাৰ বিষয়ে ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ ডেপুটি কমিশ্যনাৰৰ পৰা কিবা Report পাইছেনে ?

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Local Self-Government) :** পালে, সেই বিষয়ে মই প্ৰশ্নোত্তৰতে উল্লেখ কৰিলোঁহেঁতেন এতিয়াও Deputy Commissioner ৰ পৰা Report পোৱা নাই।

### Fire in Tinsukia Daily Bazar

**Srimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) asked :**

114. Will the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) On how many occasions the Tinsukia Daily Bazar was gutted by fire from 1950 to 1957 ?

(b) Total loss incurred by the people due to these fires ?

(c) Reasons for these fires ?

(d) Whether any financial help was given by Government to those persons who had been affected by these fires ?

(e) If not, why not ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :**

114. (a)—On two occasions, *i. e.*, on 27th November, 1956 and on 29th March, 1957.

(b)—Approximately Rs.5,85,900 on 27th November, 1956 and Rs.87,000 on 29th March, 1957.

(c)—The reasons are under investigation.

(d)—In connection with the fire of 27th November 1956 a sum of Rs.10,000 as gratuitous relief and Rs.70,000 as rehabilitation loan were sanctioned by the Revenue Department ; besides, a sum of Rs.85,350 was sanctioned by the Relief and Rehabilitation Department specifically for the displaced persons.

In connection with the fire of 29th March, 1957 a proposal for a rehabilitation loan of Rs.17,500 was submitted by the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur and the amount was sanctioned.

(e)—Does not arise.



**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** May I know if any fire fighting arrangement has been made at Tinsukia ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) :** That does not arise out of the question.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** When the question is about fire, I suppose the question of fire fighting will be relevant.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** Fire fighting does not come within my jurisdiction. The Revenue Department is concerned only with the relief.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Has the Hon'ble Minister any knowledge of it ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** I have no knowledge.

**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) :** মই সু বিছিলো যে জুই লগাব কাৰণ কি আৰু এই জুই নগোৱাব বাবে Fire Fighting ৰ যথেষ্ট ব্যৱস্থা আছেনে নাই ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** The reasons are under investigation. We have not yet got the final answer.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Hon'ble Minister can find out the reasons for the fire but cannot do away with those reasons.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** That is not my function.

**Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) :** Who is concerned with fire fighting, Sir?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** It is the Municipality.

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) :** In a supplementary question whether the Chair or the Minister will decide whether it is relevant or irrelevant ?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** I have said it is relevant. The Hon'ble Minister has accepted the ruling. He has said he has no knowledge.

**Shri RADHA KISHAN KHEMKA (Tinsukia) :** এই অগ্নি পীড়িত লোকসকলক কিমান টকাৰ সাহায্য দিয়া হৈছে বা ধণ দিয়া হৈছে তাৰ তালিকা আনি পাব পাৰেনে ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** The list is not maintained here, it is maintained there by the Deputy Commissioner. If my Friend wants, I may bring it and supply him later.



**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal)** : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই জানিব খুজিছো তিনচুকীয়াত ভূই নুমুৱাৰ কিবা বেলেগ ব্যৱস্থা আছে নেকি নাই ডিফ্ৰগণ্ডৰ পৰাই ইয়াৰ দিহা কৰা হয়।

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue)** : It is a function of the Municipality. I do not know.

**Re : Site for Junior Technical School at Masimpur (Arunachal)**

**Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur)** asked :

115. Will the Minister-in-charge of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government have decided to maintain the Junior Technical School at Masimpur (Arunachal) or intend to shift the said institution to some other place ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Relief and Rehabilitation)** replied :

115. The Silchar Junior Technical School which is now housed in rented buildings at Masimpur (Arunachal) will be shifted to the permanent site at Meherpur, near Silchar town, as soon as the permanent buildings of the school are constructed there.

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West)** : Will Government consider to have that Junior Technical School at Arunachal, where Government is going to acquire the whole area for Government purposes ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** : The school will be located at Meherpur. The hon. Questioner put a similar question in this Session. The detailed answer is given there.

**Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra)** : Will Government be pleased to continue the existing technical school at Masimpur and establish another at Meherpur ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** : There is no such proposal.

**Bus accidents and measures taken to check them**

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

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

(a) Whether Government are aware of the bus accidents that took place in huge numbers this year ?



- (b) If so, the number of accidents that occurred during this year and measures taken to check these accidents by Government ?

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

116. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Number of accidents up to date is 31. Government have taken measures to check the accidents by deputing Special Police parties to check important places, holding mobile courts and prosecuting the drivers under the Law.

### Regarding Supply of early Answers' to Questions

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari)** : I have given notice of some questions more than a month ago, but I have received information that they have been admitted only to-day. I do not know whether we will get the answers during this session.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The hon. Member was absent perhaps yesterday when I made an announcement regarding it. Of course the hon. Member can satisfy himself from the Secretary. It would be advisable to say that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has already taken immediate action on my suggestion that the questions should be answered at the earliest possible time.

### Speaker's ruling about discussion of a judgment of a Court of law by the House

**Mr. SPEAKER** : A point arose in this House as to the propriety of discussing the subject matter of a Court of law which is not *sub-judice*. There was some amount of differences of opinion in this score amongst the hon. Members of the House. The rules of procedure of this House as well as of the Lok Sabha are silent. Assam Assembly Rule 35 (9) and (10) and Rule 55 (viii) are not directly related to this point. Under Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution, the freedom of speech of a Member of the House is restricted by the standing orders and procedure of the Legislature. So far the State Legislatures are concerned, I could not find any direct answer to the question. In the old Central Legislative Assembly, however, the President



of the House ruled, "that no comments reflecting upon the conduct of Judges were permissible whether the case was pending or disposed of, but that criticisms of judgments were permissible in so far as they were possible without reflecting on the conduct of Judges—L. A. Debt., 26th January, 1926 pp.278-79."

In the House of Commons also there is no standing orders or rules of procedure in this behalf. I therefore referred the matter to the Lok Sabha and I am informed that the practice there is that as "facts of case and interpretation of law are concluded by judgment of court the House cannot sit as appellate authority over judgment. Question of change of law or any matter of public importance arising out of judgment on basis of facts established by judgment can be discussed in the House". This is a very wholesome practice and I would like to adhere to this practice.

### **The Assam Finance Bill, 1957**

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Finance Minister):** Sir, the consideration stage was passed. There was an amendment submitted by my Friend, Shri Hazarika, who has seen his way to kindly withdraw it at my request.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** He has not moved the amendment. Therefore there is no question of withdrawing.

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** So I move that the Assam Finance Bill, 1957 be passed.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that the Assam Finance Bill, 1957 be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)



**The Assam Sales Tax (Amendment), Bill, 1957**

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Next we come to the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1957. There is an amendment to clause 3 in name of Finance Minister.

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Sir, I beg to move that for sub-clause (3) of clause 3 of the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1957, the following shall be substituted, namely :—

“(3) Nothing in sub-sections (1) and (2) shall be deemed to render any dealer liable to tax on the last sale of the declared goods inside the State if such goods are intended for sale in the course of inter-State trade or commerce or on the sale of all other kinds of goods where such sale takes place—

- (i) outside the State of Assam ;
- (ii) in the course of the import of the goods into, or export of the goods out of, the territory of India ;  
or
- (iii) in the course of inter-State trade or commerce as laid down by the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956”.

**EXPLANATION**

The expression “last sale of the declared goods inside the State” means the transaction in which a dealer registered under this Act—

- (i) sells to another such dealer declared goods for use by the purchaser in the manufacture of goods for sale or for use by the purchaser in the execution of any contract ; or



- (ii) purchases declared goods from another such dealer for sale to a dealer not registered under this Act or to consumer in the State.

As I stated earlier Sir, this Assam Sales Tax (Amendment), Bill, 1957, has been brought in to be amended in order that our Bill will be in conformity after the Central Act was changed due to certain judgment of the Supreme Court. On the earlier occasion, I informed the House that Section 15 of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 has made specific provision restricting levy of sales tax under the State laws at not more than 2 per cent of the value of certain goods which are termed as "declared goods". Accordingly we have taken steps to amend the Assam Sales Tax Act, 1947, *vide* sub-clause (2) of clause 2, sub-clause (3) of clause 3, item (d) of clause 5 and item 2 of Schedule II.

The Parliament has recently amended section 15 of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1957. It has imposed further restrictions in regard to the levy of sales tax on declared goods within the States. Under the new law, the last sale of the declared goods inside a State, if intended for sale in course of inter-State trade, is also not to be taxed under the State sales tax laws. So, an opportunity has been taken to amend clause 3 of the Bill through this amendment so as to conform it to the new provision contained in the Central Sales Tax Amendment Act, 1957.

With a view to making the expression "last sale" more specific an explanation has also been appended in the line of the explanation given in the Central Sales Tax (Amendment) Act, 1957.

So, I hope the hon. Members will agree to this amendment. Sir, I beg to submit that I have been obliged to bring this amendment to the amending Bill which has been necessitated by the President's assent to the Bill on 24th June, 1957. So, Sir, I make the Motion that the amendment to the amending Bill be adopted.

(As no Member rose to speak, the amendment was put as a question before the House and was adopted.)

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question is that clause 3 as amended do stand part of the Bill.

(This was adopted.)



**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question is that clauses 2, 4 to 8 and the schedule do stand part of the Bill.

(This was adopted.)

The question is that the enacting formula, the long title and the preamble do stand part of the Bill.

(This was adopted.)

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :** Then, I beg to move, Sir, that the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1957, as amended, be passed.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question is that the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1957, as amended, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)

### **The Assam Finance (Sales Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1957**

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :** Sir, this Bill is meant only for rounding off and as there is no amendment, I beg to move that the Bill, *viz.*, the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be passed.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question is that the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)



**The Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1957**

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Sir, this Bill, *viz.*, the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1957, drops one clause and it rounds off the Naye Paise. There is no amendment and I, therefore, move that the Bill be passed.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that the Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Motor Spirit and Lubricants) Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)

**The Assam Taxation (on Goods carried by Roads or Inland Waterways) (Amendment) Bill, 1957**

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Sir, this Bill also seeks to round off the Naye Paise in the matter of calculation. There is no amendment. I, therefore, beg to move that the Bill, *viz.*, the Assam Taxation (on Goods carried by Roads or Inland Waterways) (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be passed.

**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose passing of this Bill. Sir, I oppose this method of calculation of Naye Paise at the rate proposed by the Hon'ble Minister. I find that on the pretext of this Naye Paise, Government is going to raise the rate of carrying of goods by roads and inland waterways. So far as the road is concerned, I think a very small portion of the increased income will come to the public exchequer as the major portion of roads has not been nationalised yet and so the major portion of the benefit will go to private enterprises. With regard to the inland waterways, the benefit of increase will entirely go to the Steamer Companies, which are foreign capitalist concerns, since Government have not nationalised any inland waterways.

Then, Sir, I object to the very method of the rate of calculation. To explain my point, I would like to say that



supposing the rate was previously one anna per seer of goods and in terms of Naye Paise the rate will come to  $6\frac{1}{4}$  Naye Paise, but according to the provisions of the Bill, the rate will be counted as 7 Naye Paise. Sir, if a man carries 100 seers of goods, he shall have to give to the company or the Government 75 Naye Paise more in sum total for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  maunds of goods, i.e., 12 annas more. He shall have to pay Rs.7 in place of Rs. $6\frac{1}{4}$  for 100 seers of goods. This 12 annas will go for the increase of the freight of goods, ultimately which will be charged on the consumers, that means, without the Government having any benefit of it. The businessmen will surely charge more for the freight they are to give for 100 seers of goods which is 12 annas more. Ultimately it will be the consumers who shall have to pay which is something like indirect taxation on the people who will be moving the goods on roads, and who will be carrying their goods for the consumption of the people at large, and ultimately the public or consumer at large shall have to bear the burden.

Sir, when I go to inland water-ways I find that not even an iota of benefit is going to the Government Exchequer. All inland water-ways are run by the R.S.N. & I.G.N. Co. Ltd., which is apparently a British company, and also by some of our capitalists in Calcutta who are carrying on some business on the line. So if we want to raise the rate of carrying cost on the pretext of Naye Paise nothing will come to Government but it will benefit those companies only. I do not understand why Government, who profess to be the friends of the poor people, are so anxious in this matter. Sir, in this connection my suggestion will be that the Government should not raise the rate. Let them keep the rate as it is, say 1 anna. Let them keep it at  $6\frac{1}{4}$  Naye Paise. Let them calculate the sum total at that rate. If after sum total there be any fraction to the whole sum then that fraction to the whole sum should be given in terms of next higher Naye Paise. For example, suppose we take, say, 1 anna rate per seer, on the Naye Paise calculation it would come to  $6\frac{1}{4}$  Naye Paise. So, if 30 seers of goods are being carried by a person then he shall have to pay according to my suggestion to  $187\frac{1}{2}$  Naye Paise for 30 seers of goods. This  $187\frac{1}{2}$  Naye Paise may be converted to 188 Naye Paise which is the next higher Naye Paise. But according to the Government proposal of the Bill, it will come to 210 Naye Paise, i.e., 22 Naye Paise for 30 seers of goods—this is the burden on the people. Therefore if my suggestion is taken



by the Government, the people will be relieved of the extra burden when there is no benefit to the Government and there is no difficulty on the part of the Government or on the part of anybody to calculate in that way. So, Sir, this Government on the pretext of Naye Paise should not impose on the people of this State any new burden whose condition is well known to the whole of India, and whose standard of living is very low and the *per capita* income is also very low. Therefore, Sir, if this is enforced on the people of Assam, certainly it is not going to give any benefit to the Government when the major portion of the benefit is being utilised by the private companies and also by foreign companies. Sir, I see no reason why Government should prefer this to enforce, when practically no benefit is coming to the Government and why should Government levy an indirect taxation on the people of Assam when Government is not getting any benefit from it. Therefore, Sir, I would request the Government to withdraw this Bill and bring in a fresh Bill on the lines I have suggested, and I think if this is taken up, the people of the State and also the private companies will not be, in any way, put to any difficulty.

With these few words, Sir, I oppose the Bill, and it should not be passed.

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Finance Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, frankly speaking, I have not been able to follow the arguments advanced by my hon. Friend, Maulavi Jahan Uddin Ahmed. To my mind, his speech was perhaps constructed for another purpose and his speech has been completely misplaced in the present time. Why do I think so? To illustrate and buttress his arguments, he gave an instance that if a man carries 30 seers of jute, he will have to pay so much. I submit, Sir, if a man carries 30 seers of jute he pays nothing.

**\*Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** That is not jute, Sir.

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Sir, in the Bill there is no provision that a man could carry 30 seers of goods.

**\*Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED:** I think, Sir, that is an example.



**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Finance Minister):** For example that is completely wrong even to illustrate for the sake of his arguments which are misfit and misplaced I dare say, Sir, not firmly. Although my hon. Friend is a senior Member, as he was in the Assembly since 1937, I do feel, if I may be permitted to express, that he has not studied the Bill at all, otherwise he would not have opposed it, because the Bill refers to two commodities—tea and jute. These two commodities in their entirety—tea in chest and jute in bale—are carried either by roads or by rail. That is why I venture to suggest that my hon. Friend has not taken the trouble to go through the provisions, either of the parent Bill or of the amendments. Sir, in the amendment the only factor which needs consideration is that whether that 6 and odd Naye Paise should or should not be converted to 7 Naye Paise, because 8 annas is equal to 50 Naye Paise. I submit this rounding up is a small measure, and this incidence is passed on to consumers who are more elsewhere than in Assam. Who are to-day, after all, dealers of tea and jute and who are the consumers of tea and jute? Majority of them are not inhabitants of Assam. Therefore only a very insignificant portion of the incidence falls on the consumers under the contemplation of my learned Friend. Therefore, I submit that the House should be pleased to accept the amending Bill which proposes to bring a trifle amount of money by way of rounding off Naiya Paise which is so directly needed for the representatives of the different districts of the State, even for my learned Friend who has criticised it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is: The Assam Taxation (on Goods carried by Roads or Inland Waterways) (Amendment) Bill 1957, be passed.

The Motion was adopted.

### **The Societies Registration (Assam Fourth Amendment) Bill, 1957**

**\*Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, no amendment to this Bill has been sought to be moved by the hon. Members. So, I move that the Societies Registration (Assam Fourth Amendment) Bill, 1957, be passed.



As I stated earlier, this has been necessitated by the Central Act which takes away our administration of the Indian Companies Act leaving the Societies Registration Act to be administered by the State. Hence this amending Bill.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is: The Societies Registration (Assam Fourth Amendment) Bill, 1957, be passed.

The Motion was adopted.

**The Assam Adhiars' Protection and Regulation  
(Amendment) Bill, 1957.**

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Adhiars' Protection and Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1957.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Adhiars' Protection and Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be introduced.

*(After a pause)*

The question is:

That the Assam Adhiars' Protection and Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be introduced.

*(After a pause)*

The Bill is introduced.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Adhiars' Protection and Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1957 be taken into consideration.

This is, Sir, a very small measure, and it has been brought just to bring the Adhiars' Protection and Regulation Act in line with the Fixation of Ceiling Act.



**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that the Assam Adhiars' Protection and Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1957 be taken into consideration.

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA** [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]:

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় রাজস্ব মন্ত্রী আসাম আদিয়ার সংরক্ষণ (১৯৪৮) আইনের যে সংশোধনী আমাদের সামনে আজ উপস্থিত করেছেন তা সত্যিই অভিনন্দন যোগ্য। বহুদিন থেকে আসামের কৃষক বা আদিয়ারেরা ফসলের উপর তাদের ন্যায্য অধিকার রক্ষার জন্য লড়াই করছেন। কাছাড় জেলায় তেভাগা আন্দোলন এমন পর্যায়ে গিয়ে পৌঁছেছিল যে, কৃষকদের ওলির মুখে প্রাণ দিতে হয়েছে। কিন্তু সরকার তাদের অধিকার সংরক্ষণের জন্য যে আইন ১৯৪৮ ইংরেজীতে পাশ করেন সে আইনে আদিয়ারেরা উপকৃত হয় নাই। আইনের দুর্বলতা এত বেশী হল যে ঐ সমস্ত দুর্বলতার ফলে কৃষকদের জমি হাতছাড়া হওয়ার সম্ভাবনা ছিল; এবং কার্যত তাই হয়েছেও। ফলে কৃষকরা জমিদার বা জমির মালিকদেরের আধা ভাগী প্রথায জমির ফসল বুঝিয়ে দিয়েছে। কৃষকদের উপকারে যে আইন আসেনি।

বর্তমান সংশোধনী যদিও অনেকটা ন্যায্য অধিকার কৃষকদের রক্ষা করবে তথাপি স্মৃতিচারণ মাটির মালিকরা এর মধ্যে যেসমস্ত ফাঁক বা দুর্বলতা আছে তার সুযোগ গ্রহণ করে কিছু পরিমাণ হলেও আদিয়ারদের উচ্ছেদ করতে সক্ষম হবে। উচ্ছেদ একেবারে বন্ধ হবে না।

প্রথমতঃ ১০ বিঘা জমিতে কৃষকদের অধিকার স্বীকার করে নেওয়া হয়েছে। আমরা ধরে নিতে পারি যে ১০ বিঘার উপরের জমি থেকে কৃষকরা উচ্ছেদই হবে। একজন কৃষক ভাল একটা হাল নিয়ে একবৎসরে ১৫ বিঘা জমি চাষ করতে পারে এবং ৫ জনের একটা পরিবারে ঐ পরিমাণ জমির প্রয়োজন। কাজেই নিম্নতম পরিমাণ ১০ বিঘার পরিবর্তে ১৫ বিঘা হওয়া উচিত।

Section III (c) তে একটা বিরাট ফাঁক আছে এবং এটাই হবে মাটির মালিকদের মোক্ষ অস্ত্র। এখানে বলা হয়েছে।

(c) If the landlord is a minor, or a widow or a person subjected to any physical or mental disability or a member of Military, Naval or Air Forces of the Union, then it shall be obligatory on him to leave a minimum area with the adhiar as provided for in (a) or (b) above.

একজন ইউনিভারসিটির ছাত্র ২৫ বৎসর হলেও মাইনর। অন্যদিকে খেতের কাজ যারা করে ১৫ বছর বয়সে তারা খেতের পুরা কাজ করতে পারে কাজেই এখানে বয়সের সীমা বেধে দেওয়া উচিত।

অন্যদিকে জমির মালিক যদি একজন বিধবা হয় এবং তার পরিবারে সমর্থ পুরুষ লোক থাকলেও যেহেতু জমির মালিক বিধবা সেই কারণে জমি কৃষকদের কাজ থেকে নিয়ে যেতে পারবেন। Physical and mental কথা দুটা খুবই অস্পষ্ট। প্রভাবশালী



মাটির মালিক দের খুবই সুবিধা হবে এতে। Mental and Physical disability একটি Certificate বোগার করা এই সমস্ত লোকের পক্ষে মোটেই অসুবিধা হবে না। এখানে Permanent শব্দ যোগ করে দিয়ে Permanent physical and mental disability করলে সরকার যে উদ্দেশ্য বিলের সংশোধনী এনেছেন সেটা আরও শক্ত হবে বলে আমি মনে করি।

অদ্য আর একটি বিষয়ে আমি মাননীয় রাজস্ব মন্ত্রীর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতে চাই। সরকারের আইন ও শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষার জন্য পুলিশ আছে, কিন্তু আধিয়ারদের রক্ষার জন্য শুধু আইন করে দেওয়া হয়েছে যারা আইনকে ফাঁকি দেয় তাদের হাত থেকে রক্ষার জন্য আইন প্রয়োগের কোন সংগঠন নাই। গরীব কৃষক এবং আধিয়ারেরা টাকা পরস্যা খরচ করে কোর্টের আশ্রয় নিতে পারে না এবং এক একটা মামলার রায় দিতে কোর্টের যে আজকাল দীর্ঘদিন লাগে তাতে আধিয়ারদের দিকদিয়ে খুবই অসুবিধা। ফসল উঠার সময় ফসলের অংশ নিয়ে সংঘর্ষ হয়, এবং তিন মাসের মধ্যেই ঐ কৃষককে আবার জমিতে ফসল ফলাবার জন্য নামতে হবে। কাজেই কম সময়ে এবং সহজে যাতে আইনের সুবিধা আধিয়ারেরা পায় তার ব্যবস্থা থাকা দরকার। আধিয়ার বোর্ড সরকার করেছেন কিন্তু এতে আধিয়ারদের কোন প্রতিনিধি নেই। প্রভাবশালী জমিদার এবং মাটির মালিকরা এর সদস্য হয়। আধিয়ারেরা আইনের সুবিধা থেকে এবং নিজেদের ফসলের অধিকার থেকে বঞ্চিত হয়। কাজেই ঐ সমস্ত বোর্ডে প্রকৃত আধিয়ার দের প্রতিনিধি বা যেসমস্ত অঞ্চলে কৃষকদের সংগঠন আছে সেই সংগঠনের প্রতিনিধি থাকা উচিত। আশা করি রাজস্ব মন্ত্রী আইনের এই সমস্ত দুর্বলতা গুলি দূর করবার ব্যবস্থা করবেন। সর্বশেষে আমি রাজস্ব মন্ত্রীকে ধন্যবাদ জানাই যে বেশ কিছু পরিমাণে হলেও তিনি কৃষকদের স্বার্থের দিকে লক্ষ্য রেখে আইনের সংশোধনী এনেছেন।

**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this amending Bill seeks to make some improvement on the principal Act, and so far as this improvement is concerned, we fully support it. But even in this amendment we find some defects or loopholes through which the land-owners will try to escape. The new definition that is to be inserted runs as: "Personal cultivation" means cultivation by the person himself, or by any member of his family or by his servants or hired labourers on fixed remuneration payable in cash or kind but not in crop share, under personal supervision of the person himself or any member of his family, provided it is accompanied by the bearing of risks of cultivation by the owner and by residence in the village in which the land is situate or in a nearby village, during the greater part of the agricultural season." Here a family has been defined as a joint or undivided family. It is a very vague term. Taking shelter under the definition of "a family" a landlord may depute one of his employees who may be in charge of looking after his land to supervise cultivation. So his supervision will entitle a particular land owner to have land for personal cultivation. So, this definition of the term should be improved upon.



On the other hand we find that the maximum holdings which is made available for a tenant is 10 bighas. To bring the provisions of the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Act in line with the Assam Adhiars' Protection and Regulation Act, we find, from the debate in the Assembly, that the Government have been pleased to accept 50 bighas as economic holding and the basic maximum holding has been raised to 150 bighas. Though the Planning Commission have not given any figure for economic holding, they suggested it should be in the neighbourhood of 50 bighas. But I fail to understand why a tenant has not been allowed to retain more than 10 bighas, while a landlord is allowed to resume upto 100 bighas. Even for a very small cultivator family 10/16 bighas of land are necessary for providing only the staple food.

Shri Namasudra has pointed out something about the expression physical or mental disability and about a widow or a minor, etc., and that it should be seen that these terms leave no scope for a land owner to take advantage of. So, Sir, some improvement may be made in the definition of a minor, or a person having physical or mental disability.

I request the Minister to see that the amendments suggested on these lines are taken into consideration so that the whole Bill may be really helpful to the tenants.

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery):** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোটৰ ওপৰত, এই আধিয়াৰ আইন প্ৰনয়ন কৰাত আমি আনন্দিত হৈছো। কিন্তু মোৰ বোধেৰে যেতিয়া কোনো আইন সৰ্বসাধাৰণৰ উপকাৰৰ্থে প্ৰনয়ন কৰা হয়, সেই আইনে যাতে সকলোৰে দুৰ্গতিৰ উপকাৰ হয় তাতলৈ লক্ষ্য কৰিব লাগিব। এই আইনত মই এটা কথা দেখিবলৈ পাইছো যে চাহ বাগিছা বিলাকত যিসকলে আধিয়াৰ হিচাবে জীৱিকানিৰ্ব্বহ কৰিছে, তেওলোকৰ ওপৰত হোৱা জুলুম এই আইনৰ দ্বাৰা উপশম হোৱা নাই।

উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কওঁ যে শিঙিমাৰী আৰু নোৱানদীত প্ৰায় ৩৩,০০০ বিঘা মাটি বাগিছাৰ মালিকসকলে বাগিছাৰ সম্প্ৰসাৰণৰ কাৰণে Fee Simple Grant হিচাবে লৈ বহুতো বনুৱাক ইতিপূৰ্বেই আধিয়াৰ হিচাবে খেতি কৰিবলৈ দিছিল। কিন্তু পিচত সেই আধিয়াৰ সকলক বলেৰে উচ্ছেদ কৰি আন আন মানুহৰ পৰা টকা লৈ মাটিবিলাক পটুন দিলে। আইনৰ ক্ৰটি নাথাকিলে এনে বিলাক বেমেজালি নহয়। গতিকে আইনখন এনে হ'ব লাগে যাতে চাহ বাগিছাৰ আধিয়াৰ সকলেও এই আইনৰ পৰা উপকৃত হয়। শিঙিমাৰী আৰু নোৱানদীৰ বিষয়ে মই Celing Act ৰ আলোচনাত বহুলাই কম। বৰ্ত্তমানে মই ইয়াকে কৈ সামৰণী মাৰিলো।

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari):** Mr. Speaker, I am really glad that the Revenue Minister has brought



this Bill to amend section 5 of the Assam Adhiars' Protection and Regulation Act. This Act, as it exists at present, practically creates a havoc specially in the south of the Kamrup District because under the protection of this Act, some of the landlords are evicting their tenants and thus rendering them landless. The provision under which this is done is section 5 of the Act which gives protection to the landlords and not to the tenants. Now, the Revenue Minister has brought this amendment.

But one thing I want to point out to him is about (b) which runs as, "if the aggregate area of lands in actual occupation of an Adhiar exceeds 10 bighas, then the Adhiar shall not be evicted from a minimum area of 10 bighas as selected by him (Adhiar), until he has been provided with land of equivalent value in the locality".

If a cultivator occupies more than 10 bighas, he can be evicted from the excess of the 10 bighas. In many cases we find that an Adhiar takes land to an extent of 3 or 4 bighas from several landlords. It is not clear who will take possession of the excess land from an Adhiar who occupies more than 10 bighas. It would have been better if that point would have been made clear.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Adhiars' Protection and Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1957 be taken into consideration.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Friends for the suggestions they have offered. I will reply to some of the points raised.

My Friend, Shri Radhika Ram Das, wanted some information with regard to the ten bighas of land. The Bill provides that the aggregate area of land in actual occupation of an Adhiar does not exceed 10 bighas, he will be allowed to keep 10 bighas; but if it exceeds 10 bighas, only 10 bighas will be allowed to remain in his occupation, the rest will be resumed. In any case, 10 bighas, must remain with an Adhiar. I admit that there are some loopholes and we want to do away with those loopholes and the definition for personal resumption will do away with the loopholes.

As regards the provision for minors and widows, some of my Friends have taken objection but this is exactly what



the Planning Commission wants. We have provided this because if a cultivator dies whose total possession of land at the time of death was 10 or 12 bighas, he dies leaving behind a widow and a minor son. What they will do? They cannot cultivate the land themselves, they will let out to others.

**Shri NILMONEY BARTHAHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** That is not our point. What we wanted is that the definition of widow is not appropriate, because the widow may have a number of relatives, some of whom are able-bodied men. They can take up the cultivation of the land of the widow. Of course, the case of a destitute widow is different. We want definition of minor and widow so that they cannot misuse the provision.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** I want my Friend to consider all the points. Now, there are two sides, one is landlord and the other is Adhiar. There must always be some marginal cases. We have provided 10 bighas but one Adhiar may have 12 bighas in his possession; we will have to take away the excess of the two bighas from him. Nothing can be done with these two bighas. So, there will be marginal cases always. A statute cannot be provided for all these marginal cases. In drafting all pros and cons are considered and a *via media* is cut. In case of widows and minors there may be some marginal cases.

As regards minors and widows, I give an instance. There is a widow who has a total area of 10 bighas of land. She has a minor son. They come of an agricultural family. After 5 years the son comes of age but the land is in occupation of an Adhiar. If the Adhiar cannot be evicted, the family will suffer. So the provision is there at the insistence of the Planning Commission and we also think it as a salutary measure.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The hon. Member wants definition of widow and minor.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** That is given in the general clauses Act. No other definition is necessary.

Generally, when a minor attains 18 years of age he can take possession of the land but if he is a school-going or college-going student, in that case as he cannot do personal supervision



of the land, the age limit in his case is extended to 25 years of age. In other cases, definition of a minor will be guided by the general clauses Act.

Then, about the definition of personal cultivation, we have taken that definition from the Five-Year Plan, for the sake of uniformity in India. But no definition can be provided for marginal cases. To give effect to this Act, we want the co-operation of the hon. Members. I see that inside the House Members are very willing to co-operate and I hope, they will equally co-operate outside the House.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari):** I want clarification of one point. Supposing an Adhiar occupies 20 bighas of land belonging to four landlords and all the landlords give notice for resumption of all the land, what will happen then?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** That is a point from the side of the landlords and it will be regulated by rules that prior application should be considered first and latter application should be considered later.

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]:** Physical এবং mental disability গৰ্হে কি হৰে?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** When personal supervision is not possible, say in the case a man who suffers from T. B. or some other serious disease, or he suffers from physical or mental disability, in that case he gets exemption. But in the case of a man who loses a hand and is able to supervise personally, he may not get the exemption.

**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** The point is whether physical or mental disability also means a person who is down with malaria for a week and gives a medical certificate or a man who temporarily suffers from mental disorder and gives a certificate from a physician will also be exempted? I think, unless the physical or mental disability is of a permanent nature no exemption should be allowed.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** My Friend has missed my point. A man is not required to engage himself for the entire 12 months in the year in cultivation. If the man is temporarily ill that does not mean very much, he will not get the exemption. In case of permanent or semi-permanent disability, he will get



exemption. The point is: is he able to do personal supervision.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question is that the Assam Adhiars' Protection and Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.)

**The Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) (Amendment) Bill, 1957**

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) (Amendment) Bill, 1957.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that the Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be introduced.

(After a pause)

The question is :

That the Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) (Amendment) Bill, 1957 be introduced.

(The Motion was adopted.)

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** I beg to move that the Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) (Amendment) Bill, 1957 be taken into consideration.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is :

That the Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) (Amendment) Bill, 1957 be taken into consideration.

**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bill which has been introduced, as an amendment to the principal Act has a far-reaching consequence. It refuses to recognise some of the basic rights of the people, namely, the rights of the people to receive benefit from the taxes and revenue paid to the Government, the rights of the people to get the services for the fee paid to the Government, and above all, the right of the people to claim protection from natural calamities. The Hon'ble Minister piloting this Bill seems to be playing with words. For example, the word "revetment" of the principal Act has been done away with and in its place the words "flood protection work" are sought to be introduced. The term "flood protection work" as explained here connotes



protection from floods as well as from erosions. So this interpretation of the expression "flood protection" is very far-reaching and stretched to the extent to include spurs that were provided as a measure of protection from erosion by the river. It is true that spurs may help in diverting the current of a river or a stream. They may also slow down the velocity of the current but they can never be a flood protection measure. Nobody heard of spurs and revetment serving as a measure to control, check or protect from floods. Neither has anybody heard of "flood protection work" stopping or checking erosion. Sir, the definition is of such a nature as that "oranges" may mean bananas, mangoes, pine-apples or any other variety of fruits. Government have admitted that the revetment proved to be a failure and the other measures that have been undertaken for the protection of the town from erosion are yet to prove their worth. During the time of introduction of the Bill in 1953, there was a discussion on the point whether revetment was going to result in anything which would help protection of Dibrugarh town from erosion. We hoped then that the revetment would succeed and the erosion of the Dibrugarh town would be checked but unfortunately we found that the erosion could not be checked and the mighty Brahmaputra washed every part of this revetment. The big erosion of 1954 had rendered several hundreds of families in the town homeless. It took away three of the municipal wards including a great many Government buildings and the best part of the town. It was expected of Government that they would come to the rescue of the people and would give them protection and would rehabilitate them. But instead the Government seeks to tax them to the point of extinction. Now, Sir, this Bill is brought to amend the principal Act in order to oppress those unfortunate people—the victims of erosion—whom the Government refused to rescue and rehabilitate. This Bill is most oppressive, if we look to the very principles on which the Bill is based. The whole protection work is financed from the Five-Year Plan pool. Now, to finance the Plans, Government had to rely on the savings from the revenue, taxation, public loans and deficit financing. For such resources, in the last analysis, the people have been made to pay. Drawing on this common pool of finances, Government have financed the different programmes and projects in their hands. We find here a different case of going in for double taxation. Once the people have been taxed in order to finance the different projects which have been undertaken by Government. But after the projects have been undertaken and have been under way, another Bill is sought to be



passed to tax the people further. So, I think this is a gross abuse of the principle of taxation. Even the Taxation Enquiry Commission recommended that those States which have not been favoured with benefits from the implementation of the different projects and schemes under the Plans, should be exempted from the burden of taxation. But we find that these recommendations have been flouted. In this Bill we find that the rate of taxation is 5 per cent of the total present value of property to be paid annually in order that the value of the entire property, at its present price, may be recovered in 20 years. That means within 20 years persons living in four zones of Dibrugarh will have to pay the entire value of their property to the Government. From whatever angle one judges, the longevity of a middle class house is only 20 to 25 years, and during that period, the owner will have to pay the entire value of that property to the Government in the form of tax. This is the case of a jealous and malicious person, who finding a poor friend of his in an improvised hovel, plans to rob him of that also like the legendary giant sharing the prosperity of his dwarf friend all to himself, leaving all the miseries to him. The poor indigenous people of Dibrugarh are labouring hard or are borrowing to make their shelter and the Government instead of helping them, want to realise the entire value of the land and house in 20 years' time as tax. It is not only absurd but abominable. So, if this Bill is passed, people will have to leave the town of Dibrugarh and take shelter somewhere else. The people have not been able to pay even the municipal taxes which is only  $13\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the annual rental value, and sometimes, it so happens that the property had to be attached for the realisation of taxes. The Bill may suit a few rich persons, particularly from the commercial class. Such people may be in a position to pay this tax. But the overwhelming majority of the people cannot pay such a tax. The tax is very high, and if the people are to pay the entire value of property in 20 years, they will be forced to believe that it is a crime to own a house. Nobody can say whether this system of protection will succeed or not because the recent floods have shown that the nose spur No.4 has been washed away. There was some amount of erosion also just in front of the court building. Sir, the Government want us to pay for an experimental, uncertain and dubious undertaking. This means that Government want the people to pay a tax for a project which is not very sure to succeed. We are asked to invest in a bank which is already on the run, i.e., in the bank of Brahmaputra. I, therefore, request that the present Bill should not be taken into



consideration. I therefore beg to move that this Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by 30th September, 1957. I am sure of the nature of public opinion that will come from the people of Dibrugarh. I am fully confident that the people of Dibrugarh will be united 'to a man' and that they will give a verdict that this Bill is very oppressive and that they are not in a position to pay the tax. If we judge from the basic principles also it is unwise for a State to tax the people irrespective of the quantum of benefit that the people living in different zones may derive from the schemes and projects launched by Government. Now what benefit the people of Dibrugarh have got? They have lost their property and they have lost the best portion of their lands and for good. Somehow or other, some of them have subsequently built their shelters in the outskirts of the town. Sir, these affected people have lost in aggregate properties worth Rs. 80 to 90 lakhs. Now a great number of them live in temporary shelters, but surprisingly enough, these poor unfortunate people who are now living in temporary shelters in the outskirts of the town are sought to be taxed instead of being helped. What will happen to them if they are to pay the tax? Naturally these unfortunate people will be forced to sell their belongings and everything they have in their possession now; and to what plight these people will then be put to? Sir, you can easily imagine. So I request the Government that the best thing for them to do in this direction is to circulate this Bill for eliciting public opinion, not only from Dibrugarh but from the other parts of the State as well.

Now, Sir, the Central Government have not allotted any major project to Assam in the two Plan periods. The oil refinery is sought to be taken away. The railways are where they stood during the British period, rather they have deteriorated. The Union Government have utterly failed to help us to establish basic industries for which there is a tremendous potentiality in our State, even though this strategically situated frontier State, gives to the people of India, that golden liquid—oil—and an important foreign currency earner—tea. We have been completely neglected. We have not been given anything except a mite—the protective measures for Dibrugarh—and for that we have to pay them extra. The people of Dibrugarh cannot pay such a tax, and if I have been able to judge them correctly, will not pay such a tax. But even this scheme is not a definite proposition. Unless a permanent division for Dibrugarh Town Protection is created, I am sure, we shall not be able to protect Dibrugarh town from the clutches of the mighty Brahmaputra.



Sir, at present erosion is continuing on the north-eastern parts of the town ; so unless we can extend the town protection measures at least 10 miles to the north-eastern part of Dibrugah town, the mighty Brahmaputra may again form a cavity near a place in Maijan, Mathala and Nagaguli areas and thereby the intruding main stream of the river may wash the whole town of Dibrugarh away. So Sir, I say that instead of taxing the people, with the help of this preposterous and oppressive piece of legislation, Government should have thought of taking up certain permanent measures in consultation with experts and engineers to find out ways and means to protect Dibrugarh town and to save the people from such calamities in future by sealing the possibility of any danger of cavity formation towards the north-eastern part of Dibrugarh town. With these words, I request the Government that the Bill in question be circulated for eliciting public opinion by 30th of September, 1957.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** I have one suggestion to make in this behalf. It will be convenient for the House if the Movers move their Motions before they speak so that the House will be able to follow the points and it will be also convenient for the Speaker to watch that the hon. Member is speaking according to rules of procedure. So in future the Mover should first move his Motion and make his observations later.

The amendment moved is that the Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) (Amendment) Bill, 1957 be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by 30th of September, 1957.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry, I am unable to accept this amendment. Now my Friend, Shri Borthakur, has entirely misconceived the scope of this Bill. This Bill is not a taxation measure, there is a great deal of difference between fee and tax. This is a betterment fee, that is, money realised for service rendered. Secondly, Sir, my Friend attacks the fundamental principles of the Act itself, that no fee should be realised.....

**Mr. SPEAKER :** That is why I do not know what he is speaking about.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** That is the difficulty. He has contradicted himself. He speaks against the fundamental principles of the Act itself and not this Bill. My Friend has said that the Act is misconceived and therefore, the Act should



not be there, but the Act is already there. My Friend is to confine his speech to the amending Bill but he attacks the Act, which he cannot do. He being a new Member, I did not like to interrupt him then.....

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Nor could I because the Mover of the amendment had not moved his Motion.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** By moving this amendment he accepts the principle of the Bill and hence he contradicts himself when he opposes the main principle of the Act, which is sought to be amended. This Bill may be accepted or rejected but still the Act will be there. Within the scope of the Bill nobody can say whether it is right or not to thereon realise.....

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is the point which you need not labour. That is a matter of procedure. Will the Hon'ble Minister confine his observations and reply to the points raised by the mover?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Then I finish here, Sir. I am unable to accept the amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that the Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) (Amendment) Bill, 1957 be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion by the 30th September, 1957.

The House divided with the following result—

AYES—18

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Birendra Kumar Das   | 10. Shri Larsingh Khyriem           |
| 2. Shri Emeron Momin         | 11. Shri Mathias Tudu               |
| 3. Shri Ghanashyam Talukder  | 12. Md. Matlebuddin                 |
| 4. Shri Gopesh Namasudra     | 13. Shri Mody K. Marak              |
| 5. Shri Harrison Momin       | 14. Shri Nilmoney Borthakur         |
| 6. Mr. Henry Cotton          | 15. Shri Pakhirai Deka              |
| 7. Shri Hiralal Patwary      | 16. Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua. |
| 8. Maulavi Jahan Uddin Ahmed | 17. Maulavi Sahadat Ali             |
| 9. Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy | 18. Capt. Williamson A. Sangma      |



NOES—62

1. Shri Bishnu Ram Medhi
2. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma
3. Shri Moti Ram Bora
4. Shri Rup Nath Brahma
5. Shri Debeswar Sarmah
6. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi.
7. Shri Hareswar Das
8. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury
9. Shri Chatrasing Teron
10. Shri Purnananda Chetia
11. Shri Mohi Kanta Das
12. Shri Girindra Nath Gôgoi
13. Mrs. Usha Barthakur
14. Dr. Ghanashyam Das
15. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika
16. Shri Indreswar Khaund
17. Shri Khelhoshe Sema
18. Mr. A. Thanglura
19. Shri Baikuntha Nath Das
20. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhan
21. Shri Bishnu Lal Upadhyaya
22. Shri Biswadev Sarma
23. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika
24. Shri Dandi Ram Dutta
25. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika
26. Shri Durgeswar Saikia
27. Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma.
28. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
29. Shri Harinarayan Baruah
30. Shri Hem Chandra Chakravarty.
31. Mrs. Jyotsna Chanda
32. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala.
33. Shri Khagendra Nath Nath
34. Prof. (Shrimati) Komol Kumari Barua
35. Shri Lalit Kumar Daley
36. Shri Lila Kanta Borah
37. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta
38. Shri Mahadev Das
39. Maulavi Mahammad Idris
40. Shri Manik Chandra Das
41. Shri Mohananda Bora
42. Shri Mohidhar Pegeo
43. Shri Molia Tati
44. Shri Nanda Kishore Sinha
45. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma
46. Maulavi Nurul Islam
47. Shri Omeo Kumar Das
48. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain
49. Shri Radha Charan Choudhury.



NOES

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 50. Shri Radha Kishan Khemka | 56. Shri Sai Sai Terang         |
| 51. Shri Radhika Ram Das     | 57. Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi     |
| 52. Maulavi Rahimuddin Ahmed | 58. Shri Satsuo Angami          |
| 53. Shri Ram Nath Das        | 59. Shri Surendra Nath Das      |
| 54. Shri Ramnath Sarma       | 60. Shri Tajammul Ali Barlaskar |
| 55. Dr. Ram Prasad Chaubey   | 61. Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed      |
|                              | 62. Shri Tankeswar Chetia       |

(The amendment was lost.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that the Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) (Amendment) Bill, 1957 be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.)

**The Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 1957**

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be introduced.

(The Bill was introduced.)

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be taken into consideration.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be taken into consideration.



**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) :**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make certain observations on this Bill. We are really surprised to find that the Government have come forward with an amending Bill before the principal Act is put into operation. It is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that certain amendments to the Act are necessary after discussion with the Planning Commission. We expected, therefore, that the amendments will be in a progressive direction.

But, Sir, there are some provisions in the amending Bill which will certainly protect the landlords and not the tenants. For example, here we find in clause 4 which runs as follows:—

“Provided that where the person holds orchard lands, the aforementioned limit shall be increased by the actual area of the orchard, subject to a maximum of 30 bighas.”

It means that an additional 30 bighas of land will be given to a landlord who wants to keep the land in the name of orchard. In Assam we have orchards whose area is not more than 50 to 60 bighas of land. So, there is no necessity to give more lands to orchard owners whose maximum will now go to 180 bighas of land, according to the provision of the present amending Bill.

Then, Sir, we find both in this Bill and in the Adhiars' Protection Bill that the economic holdings have been brought to 10 bighas. But the land which can be resumed by a landlord has been raised to 100 bighas. Therefore, Sir, I would like to say that in the case of landlords the economic holding has been fixed at 100 bighas, and in the case of a tenant under the landlord the economic holding has been fixed at 10 bighas only. So there is apparently a discrepancy which goes against the legitimate interest of the tenants.

The area to be allowed to be retained by a tenant should be raised to at least 15 or 16 bighas.

Then, Sir, here again a special provision has been made for persons subject to any physical or mental disability. I would like to observe that there may be a temporary or a permanent disability—physical or mental. A person suffering from Malaria, Dysentery or Influenza may be described to be physically disabled. But clearly, Sir, a person may quickly recover from such



a temporary disability and in that case it would be wrong to exempt that person from the operation of the relevant section of the Principal Act. So, Sir, with such changes effected in the Bill, it will receive the support of the vast masses of the peasantry. With these qualifications, I am fully in agreement with the Bill. It should be given effect to as early as possible.

**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak a few words in connection with this Bill. My Friend, Shri Borthakur, has referred to certain defects in the Bill, and I propose to add only a few words more.

There appears to be certain irregularities in respect of clause 4 which says, "Provided that where the person holds orchard lands, the aforementioned limit shall be increased by the actual area of the orchard, subject to a maximum of 30 bighas." Sir, we do not know why the Government is so anxious to add these 30 bighas of land when they have made the fixation of ceiling on land holdings at 150 bighas. This means that the total ceiling on land holding will be raised to 180 bighas for a certain class of people enjoying privileges. May be some Deputy Ministers or Ministers having some orchards are sought to be given protection by this proviso. In my opinion, under no circumstances, fixation of the ceiling on land holding should be allowed to rise beyond 150 bighas. I am sorry to note that this provision has been incorporated only with a view to give some benefit to landlords who are already in possession of sufficient lands.

Then again with regard to *benami* transfer, it has been provided under sub-section (2) of clause 4 thus :

"No *benami* transfer, including usufructuary mortgage, made after the twelfth day of November, 1955, shall be taken into account in determining the limit up to which the transferor shall be entitled to hold lands under sub-section (1) \*\*\*\*\*"

That means that *benami* transfer, including usufructuary mortgage made after the twelfth day of November, 1955 will be excluded. But I do not know why this should be so. Because some of them may be mortgaging their lands under certain compelling circumstances. So this provision is not intelligible to me.



Then again regarding *benami* transfer, the definition of *benami* transfer is not clear. In case of Muslims, property made over to wives on marriage may also come under the purview of this Bill. It may come or it may not. This is not explicitly stated here. So this requires clarification. Because in case of Maharwana, the property goes exclusively to the wife. Over such property no family member can exercise any right of property. So the definition of Benamdar should be clearly stated.

We expect, the Hon'ble Minister, when he brings the amendment for discussion, would be pleased to make necessary amendment to this effect.

With these words, Sir, I beg to resume my seat, and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will amend the Bill in the light of the suggestions given.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point raised by my Friend, Maulavi Jahan Uddin Ahmed, regarding *benami* transfer is not clear to me as I could not exactly follow him. If the land is transferred for "den mohar" then that is not a *benami* transfer; it is not a *benami* transaction. But now we want to amend this section. Section 4, sub-section (2)—we want to amend. The section as it stands at present, presents certain legal complications; so we want to amend. And in the amended section these difficulties will be removed.

**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Regarding illegal transaction and mortgage?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** My Friend does not seem to have been able to follow me. Illegal transaction and mortgage, everything comes under it. My Friend may look to clause 4 of the amending Bill. The existing sub-section of section 4 is sought to be substituted. *Benami* and other matters will not be challenged, but the land concerned will be taken into account at the time of calculation of the ceiling. All transactions will remain. There are legal difficulties to make a transaction null and void. We want to do away with these difficulties. Whether a transaction is valid or invalid, that will not be questioned or challenged now.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Jania):** On a point of clarification, Sir, the objections raised by Maulavi Jahan Uddin Ahmed are in the existing Act, where all the accounts of transfer are included. While in case of the amending Bill, only *Benami*



transactions will be taken into consideration. In the existing Act all accounts to be transferred are taken, but the present Bill seeks to do away with it, only *benami* transactions will be taken into consideration. So, Sir, the objections raised by my Friend will be met by the amending Bill.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Yes, Sir, what my Friend wants to amend, we have already taken action to amend it. So, further amendment will not be necessary.

My Friend, Mr. Borthakur, has said that we have accepted 10 bighas as an economic holding. This is correct. We have not defined what is an economic holding. We have kept 10 bighas with an Adhiar as the minimum area which should be kept with him when a landlord resumes land. If more area than 10 bighas is held by an Adhiar then that excess land can be resumed for personal cultivation by the landlord. That is the intention.

Another point I want to clear is that while fixing the ceiling we should not take any step which may lead to fall in production. In case of an orchard it may so happen that by breaking it up the production may fall. The Planning Commission suggests to fix ceiling in such a way that it does not lead to fall in production in any State. It is generally found in our State that orchards are confined to 30 bighas of land. There may be a few above this limit. But if we break up such an orchard in fixing the ceiling then the production is liable to fall. An orchard may contain mango trees, jackfruit trees, betlenut trees, and so on. If by fixing the ceiling we take these fruit trees away and cut them to make the land cultivable, the production will fall. So, that cannot be allowed to be done. If we do it then we do some positive disservice to the State as a whole. That is the principle why orchards are kept outside the ceiling.

**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** The Hon'ble Minister has not understood my point. I do not want that any orchard should be divided. What I want to impress is that including the orchard the maximum should be fixed at 150 bighas and not more.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** I quite follow my Friend and that is what our Act provides and we want to extend the ceiling now.



**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 1957 be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.)

**The Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1957**

**Mr. SPEAKER:** There is a message from the Governor in this connection which I am reading out—

“I recommend under Article 207 (1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1957 be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.”

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1957.

(The Bill was introduced.)

Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be taken into consideration.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be taken into consideration.

(After a pause)

The question is that the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1957 be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was adopted.)



Before I call upon Shri Brahma to move the next Bill I want to clear two points raised by the Revenue Minister during his observation of the Bill. The first is about the scope of discussion on the Bill. It is clearly mentioned in Assembly Rule 62 (1) that on the day on which any such motion is made, or on any subsequent day to which the discussion is postponed, the principle of the Bill and its general provisions may be discussed, but the details of the Bill must not be discussed further than is necessary to explain its principle. This Bill is an amending Bill and not the original Act. So, when an amending Bill is moved the discussion under this rule shall have to be confined to this Bill and not the original Act to which this amending Bill is moved.

The second point he said is that if a Motion is moved for eliciting public opinion then the mover is committed to the principle of the Bill. But it is not because it is a dilatory Motion and its purpose is evident. It is the procedure also in the Central Assembly that if a Motion for circulating a particular Bill for public opinion is passed by an Assembly, the Assembly is not committed to this—for principle of that Bill. Therefore, the point raised by the Revenue Minister does not hold water.

### **The Assam Repealing Bill, 1957**

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Judicial):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Repealing Bill, 1957.

(The Bill was introduced.)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Repealing Bill, 1957, be taken into consideration.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Repealing Bill, 1957, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put and adopted.)



## **The Assam Land Revenue Reassessment (Amendment) Bill, 1957**

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Land Revenue Reassessment (Amendment) Bill, 1957.

(The Bill was introduced.)

Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Land Revenue Reassessment (Amendment) Bill, 1957 be taken into consideration.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion is that the Assam Land Revenue Reassessment (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be taken into consideration.

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

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Sir, I gave notice of a Motion for circulating the Bill to elicit public opinion. I want to speak on it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Bill is already adopted and you cannot take part now.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Sir, I thought I would be called to speak on it as I gave notice of a Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is not the practice. If the hon. Member had any Motion, he should have risen in his place to move it.

## **The Assam Municipal (Validation of Elections) Bill, 1957**

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Local Self-Government):** Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Municipal (Validation of Elections) Bill, 1957, be introduced.

The reasons for introducing of the Bill, is as follows:—

Sub-section (1) of Section 17 of the Assam Municipal Act provides the period within which the general elections of



Municipal Boards are to be held and completed and there is no law by which extension of time can be given to hold the elections beyond the period so laid down.

The General Election of Jorhat Municipal Board was to have been held and completed within the 24th December 1956. The Magistrate-in-charge of the Election duly fixed the 27th day of November 1956 as the election date. But it so happened that in preparing and publishing the preliminary electoral rolls, the names of certain persons were omitted. The persons concerned duly submitted their claims to the Magistrate but the latter dismissed their claims *ex-parte* without giving notice to them as required under rule 12 of the Municipal Election Rules. In consequence thereof, the aggrieved persons filed a case in the High Court. In making absolute the rule obtained by the petitioners, the High Court issued telegraphic direction to the Magistrate on 24th November 1956 to hear the claims and dispose of objections according to law after giving due notice as required under the rules and then to proceed to publish finally the electoral rolls and hold the election accordingly. In view of the High Court's decision, the General Election of the Jorhat Municipal Board scheduled on 27th November 1956 was not held. This has necessitated holding of the Board's general election on a fresh date. But the circumstances so exist that it was found impossible to hold and complete the election within the statutory period, *i. e.*, within the 24th December 1956. On the advice of Legal Remembrancer, Government had to take recourse to the issue of the Assam Municipal (Validation of Elections) Ordinance, 1957 for the purpose of extending the time for holding the general election of the Board and the aforesaid Ordinance was promulgated. On the strength of the Ordinance a Notification has been issued by Government fixing the 9th day of September 1957 as the date for holding the election of the Board and the Magistrate has also been directed to take such steps as would be necessary to hold the election on the date so fixed. But the Ordinance shall lapse after six weeks from the date of re-assembly of the Legislature.

Hence, the Bill, is introduced.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Municipal (Validation of Elections) Bill, 1957, be introduced.

(The Bill was introduced.)



**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Local Self-Government)** : Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Municipal (Validation of Elections) Bill, 1957 be taken into consideration.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The Motion moved is that the Assam Municipal (Validation of Elections) Bill, 1957, be taken into consideration.

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

### The Assam Roads Communication Board

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Public Works Department)** : Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly recommends that the Assam Roads Communication Board be constituted to advise Government in the matter of road development in the State with the following members and that they (members) do hold office for the life time of this Legislative Assembly:—

- |   |     |                           |
|---|-----|---------------------------|
| 1. Minister, Public Works Department  | ... | Chairman.                 |
| 2. Chief Engineer (Roads & Buildings)   | ... | <i>Ex-officio</i> Member. |
| 3. Additional Chief Engineer (Roads & Buildings).   | ... | Do.                       |
| 4. Chief Engineer (Flood Control and Irrigation).   | ... | Do.                       |
| 5. Deputy Chief Engineer or in his absence Assistant Chief Engineer (Roads and Buildings).  | ... | Secretary of the Board.   |
| 6-17. Twelve members to be elected by the Members of the Legislative Assembly.  | ... | Members elected.          |
| 18-21. Four members to be nominated by the Government to represent Local Bodies, special interest, or area, which does not find representation in the Board through election.             | ... | Members nominated.        |
| 22. Chairman or representative of the Assam Branch of Indian Tea Association.   | ... | Do.                       |
| 23. Chairman or representative of the Assam Branch of Assam Planters Association.   | ... | Do.                       |
| 24-25. Two members (one member of Lok Sabha and one member of Rajya Sabha from Assam) to be co-opted by the Government at the instance of the Government of India in non-voting capacity. | ... | Members co-opted.         |



**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that this Assembly recommends that the Assam Roads Communication Board be constituted to advise Government in the matter of road development in the State with the following members and that they (members) do hold office for the life time of this Legislative Assembly.

- |   |     |                           |
|---|-----|---------------------------|
| 1. Minister, Public Works Department  | ... | Chairman.                 |
| 2. Chief Engineer (Roads & Buildings)   | ... | <i>Ex-officio</i> Member. |
| 3. Additional Chief Engineer (Roads & Buildings).   | ... | Do.                       |
| 4. Chief Engineer (Flood Control and Irrigation).   | ... | Do.                       |
| 5. Deputy Chief Engineer or in his absence Assistant Chief Engineer (Roads and Buildings).  | ... | Secretary of the Board.   |
| 6-17. Twelve members to be elected by the Members of the Legislative Assembly.  | ... | Members elected.          |
| 18-21. Four members to be nominated by the Government to represent Local Bodies, special interest, or area, which does not find representation in the Board through election.             | ... | Members nominated.        |
| 22. Chairman or representative of the Assam Branch of Indian Tea Association.   | ... | Do.                       |
| 23. Chairman or representative of the Assam Branch of Assam Planters Association.   | ..  | Do.                       |
| 24-25. Two members (one member of Lok Sabha and one member of Rajya Sabha from Assam) to be co-opted by the Government at the instance of the Government of India in non-voting capacity. | ... | Members co-opted.         |

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

(after a pause)

Then we come to Private Members' Business. Now, there remains only one minute, so I adjourn the House till 2 P. M.

### Adjournment

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



(After lunch).

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair).

**Point of orders raised by Maulavi Jahan Uddin Ahmed  
that he was not called by the Chair to move his  
Amendment to a Bill**

**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a point of order regarding the procedure of moving the amendment when the consideration of the Bill comes. Sir, I would like very much to have a ruling on this point from the Chair. In this connection I beg to say that previously, I mean the previous Legislative Assembly in Assam beginning from the year 1937 to 1945 when I was a member of this House, we were generally given some opportunity of moving the amendment when a Bill is moved for consideration. Sir, if a Member gives in writing any motion for amendment either for eliciting public opinion or for referring the Bill to a Select Committee, generally, the Member is given an opportunity by the Speaker, to move the amendment. Sir, there is no particular rule in this regard.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I want to cut short. Is it not a reference to the Motion fixed for to-day? I think, you did not catch the Speaker's eye, that is, you did not give any notice of it at the consideration stage.

**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED:** Let me explain this, Sir. Previously, if an hon. Member would give something in writing to the Hon'ble Speaker, it was our experience that the hon. Member was called by the Speaker as to whether he would like to move his amendment, that is, some latitude is given to that particular Member who has given notice of amendment in writing. That was a convention. Anyway, Sir, I shall be very much obliged if an opportunity is given to the hon. Member who gives something in writing previously.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When a motion for consideration comes, generally the Member should immediately rise, if he has not given any notice of it. Of course, it is now passed away, and if something was given in writing, that is waived out now. There is no question of convention.



**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** There is no definite procedure regarding this.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, you should catch the Speaker's eye.

**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED:** There is no convention, Sir.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Whether the hon. Member had given any notice ?

**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think, this refers to the matter when the Speaker was present in the morning session. So I am sorry, I cannot give any ruling.

**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED:** Sir, some latitude should be given in future and I like that in future a convention may be created by calling upon the Member as to whether he will move the amendment as it was done previously and that is the convention.

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as we remember on this side, sufficient time was given to the hon. Member, because, the Speaker paused for some time. It was up to the hon. Member at that time to rise and speak.

**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED:** As there was convention previously I expected that the Hon'ble Speaker would call me to speak.

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister):** Sir, on another occasion, when Mr. Nilmoney Borthakur from Dibrugarh wanted to send a Bill for eliciting public opinion, he immediately rose and spoke and the matter was discussed.

### **Motion to consider food problem in the State**

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now take into consideration the present food problem in the State.



Sir, আমাৰ সকলোৱে জানে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা ভয়াবহ হৈ উঠিছে আমাৰ গৰণৰ বাহাদুৰেও তেখেতৰ ভাষণত কৈছিল.....

“There are some movements of rice outside the State, and a large scale of smuggling is taking place to Pakistan.”

আমাৰ বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰীয়াইও তেখেতৰ ভাষণৰ আৰম্ভণিতে কৈছিল যে আগৰে পৰা ধান চাউলৰ দান বেচি হৈ আহিল, গতিকে খাদ্য সমস্যাই এনেকুৱা ভয়াবহ আকাৰ ধাৰণ কৰিব বুলি চৰকাৰে বুজিছিল। আমজুলি প্ৰজেক্টত ৮৫ হাজাৰ টকা ধৰা হৈছে, তাৰে ৭৭ হাজাৰ Pay of Officer ৰ কাৰণে ধৰিছে, মাত্ৰ ৮ হাজাৰ টকা for works তত irrigation আৰু খোৱা পানীৰ ব্যৱস্থা নাই খেতিতো দৰৰ কথা। মঙ্গলদৈ মহকুমাৰ কালিকোলাত বহুত মানুহ বহিছে, তাত খোৱা পানীৰ বাবে ২টা কুঁৱাও Sanction কৰিছিল। কিন্তু সেই কুঁৱাৰ কাম হলে একো হোৱা নাই.....

ভোলাটোৰ এটা Irrigation ৰ সহায়ৰে খেতিয়ক ৰাইজৰ দ্বাৰা সৰহ শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰা হ'ল, কিন্তু আজি দুবছৰৰ পৰা সেই অঞ্চলৰ প্ৰায় ৬,০০০ লোকৰ খাদ্য শস্য নষ্ট হৈ গৈছে। যোৱা নভেম্বৰ মাহতে সেই অঞ্চলৰ পৰা বিচাই ধান খোৱা বাবে এটা সজাতিদল মঙ্গলদৈ মহকুমাৰ তৰফৰ পৰা চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰলৈ আহিছিল। তেওঁলোকে সেই ক্ষতিৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত বহু আবেদন কৰিলে, কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় চৰকাৰে আজিলৈ তাৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থাই গ্ৰহণ নকৰিলে। তাৰ কাৰণে সেই অঞ্চলত বছৰি প্ৰায় ২ লাখ মৌন ধান নষ্ট হয়।

এইটোৱেই নুবুজায়নে যে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলক সৰহ শস্য উৎপাদনত প্ৰকৃত উৎসাহ নিদিয়, যিখিনি শস্য অতি কষ্টেৰে খেতিয়ক ৰাইজে উৎপাদন কৰে তাক ঠিকমতে তেওঁলোকে চপাব পাৰে নে নোৱাৰে সেই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰৰ কোনো মন কাম নাই। চৰকাৰে কেবল খাদ্যৰ নাটনি বুলি চিঞৰ বাখৰ কৰাৰ বাহিৰে আন কিবা ব্যৱস্থা লয় নে নলয় তাক আমি চৰকাৰৰ কাৰ্য্যকলাপৰ পৰা ধৰিব নোৱাৰো।

এইখিনিতো মই কবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছো যে আমাৰ অসম এখন সাকুৱা ঠাই। আন প্ৰদেশৰ তুলনাত অসমত খেতি বেচিকৈহে হয়। কিন্তু বৰ দুখৰ কথা যে অসমৰ কাৰণ বাহিৰৰ পৰা খাদ্য আনিব লাগে আৰু আন প্ৰদেশৰ তুলনাত অসমত খাদ্য সামগ্ৰীৰ মূল্য বেচি। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কও-ৰাজস্থান, উত্তৰ প্ৰদেশ আৰু বিহাৰ আদিত প্ৰধান খাদ্য হ'ল মাটক, যেহ আৰু বেজৰা—অসমত হল চাউল—প্ৰতিজন মানুহৰ দিনে কিমান খৰচ হয় তাকে মই দেখুৱাও।

ৰাজস্থান, উত্তৰ প্ৰদেশ আৰু বিহাৰত প্ৰতি লোকক মাটক, যেহ আদি লাগে দিনে ৮ ছটাক, তাৰ দাম ২২ বা ২৩ নয়া পইছা—অসমত প্ৰতি লোকক চাউল লাগে দিনে ১২ ছটাক, তাৰ দাম ৪৭ নয়া পইছা।

উত্তৰ প্ৰদেশ আৰু বিহাৰৰ শাক পাচলি যিমান খিনিৰ দাম ১৪ নয়া পইছা, অসমত তাৰ দাম ৬০ নয়া পইছা।

প্ৰোটিন জাতীয় খাদ্যৰতো কথাই নাই, অসমত মাছ মাংস প্ৰধান খাদ্য তাৰ দাম সোৰ ১ টকাৰ পৰা ৪১০ অনাটল দালি আৰু আটা বিহাৰ আৰু আন আন ঠাইৰ পৰা অসমলৈ আহে যেতিয়া তাৰ দামতো সেই পৰিমাণে বহু বেচি।

এতিয়া ইয়াৰ পৰাই মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে উপলব্ধি কৰিব পাৰে যে আন ঠাইতকৈ অসমত খাদ্যৰ মূল্য কিমান বেচি।



মহোদয় এনে এটা পৰিস্থিতিৰ মাজত আমাৰ যিবিলাক নিম্ন বেতন ভোগী কৰ্মচাৰী আছে তেওলোকে যি দৰমহা পায়, তাৰে তেওঁলোকৰ পৰিয়ালক খাদ্য-বস্ত্ৰ দুয়োটা যোগোৱাটো দূৰ কৰা খাদ্যই সংগ্ৰহ কৰা টান।

আমি দেখিছো ছিলঙৰ খাদ্য সমস্যাও কম জটিল নহয়। এনে স্থলত নিম্ন বেতন ভোগী কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ কি দূৰৱস্থা হৈছে তাক সকলোৱে জানে।

আমাৰ চৰকাৰে কয় যে, খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান কৰে তেখেতসকলে অশেষ যত্ন কৰিছে। এতিয়া কি যত্ন কৰিছে তাৰ অলপ নমুনা মই দিও। আমি জানো যে, খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ হলে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ সবহ শস্য উৎপাদন কৰাৰ যত্ন অপৰিহাৰ্য্য। তাৰ কাৰণে খেতিয়ক ৰাইজক কৃষি কৰ্মত সকলো প্ৰকাৰে উদগনি দিব লাগে, চৰকাৰে যি উদগনি দিছে, তাৰ সীমা নাই। মই মজলদৈ মহকুমাৰ কথা কও। তাত প্ৰায় ১৪,০০০ গৰু মহ মৰিছে। মই কব পাৰো আনকি একোটা পৰিয়ালৰ ৬০—৭০ টা কৈ গৰু মহ মৰিছে মোৰ নিজৰ ঘৰতে সেই অৱস্থা। এজন নেপালীৰ ৪২ টা মহ মৰিছে এনে ধৰণে সেই অঞ্চলত গৰু মহ মৰি খাদ্য হৈছে মোৰ সমষ্টি টাইবেল প্ৰধান সমষ্টি তাত প্ৰায় ১,০০,০০০ টাইবেল লোকৰ বস-বাস সেই গৰীৰ লোক সকলৰ গৰু মহ শেষ হৈছে। বানপানীত কৃষি শস্য নষ্ট হৈছে। ই জানো ৰাজ্যৰ ক্ষতি নহয়? সেইলোকসকলৰ এফালে খাবলৈ নাই আনফালে শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিবলৈ গৰু মহ নাই। সচৰ ধান নাই। কিন্তু চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা সেই আহিকালবিলাক উপশম কৰিবলৈ কোনো চেষ্টা কৰা নাই। হৰি চিঙাত ৯৭ নম্বৰ বেলঙৰে দলঙৰ কাষত ৰাইজে বানপানীৰ হাতৰ পৰা শস্য ৰক্ষা কৰিবলৈ বহু টকা পইচা খৰচ কৰি এটা বান্ধ বান্ধিলে আৰু খেতিৰ বাবে দং তৈয়াৰ কৰে, কিন্তু ৰাইজও কৰ্তৃপক্ষ উক্ত দং শিলপেলাই বন্ধ কৰে ইয়াৰ তদন্তও হল Railway S. D. O. আৰু মহকুমাৰ S. D. O. এ ১০ দিনৰ ভিতৰত ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰিব বুলি আশ্বাস দিলে, কিন্তু একো নহল।

মহোদয়, সেই বান্ধ নষ্ট হোৱা কাৰণে ৰাইজৰ যি শস্য নষ্ট হৈছে, তাৰ ক্ষতিপূৰণ চৰকাৰে দিব বুলি মই আশা কৰিলো।

নানা ধৰণৰ Insect আহি সময়ে সময়ে হোৱা খেতি নষ্ট কৰে-চৰকাৰৰ কৃষি বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে দৰমহা লয়; কিন্তু এনেবোৰ পোকে ক্ষতি কৰিব নোৱাৰে তাৰ কোনো নিবাৰণৰ উপায় আজিলৈকে কৰা নাই।

তাৰ পিচত সস্তীয়া চাউলৰ দোকান পতাৰ উদ্দেশ্য হ'ল গৰীৰ জনসাধাৰণক সহায় কৰা। সেই উদ্দেশ্যে দোকান পতা কথাটো ঠিক; কিন্তু দোকানৰ যোগনিয়াৰে চাউল নাপায়। গৰীৰ ৰাইজ সকল সাত কাম পাচ কৰি চাউল নিবলৈ আহিব। তেতিয়া কব যে, ইমান তাৰিখে চাউল আহিব। সেই দিনা আহিলে কব যে, চাউল আহি পোৱা নাই। এনেটকৈ গৰীৰ লোকসকলক নানা কষ্ট দিয়া হৈছে।

**Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding)** Is there any ration shop prevalent in the State at present?

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery)** : তাৰ পিচত সেই চাউল-বিলাক ৰেল বা জাহাজেৰে প্ৰত্যেক জিলালৈ পঠিয়াব লাগে। কিয়নো যদি মজলদৈলৈ ৯০ মৌন চাউল নিয়া হয়, তাৰ কাৰণে বাচ ভাড়া গুৱাহাটী আদি ঠাইৰ পৰা ১৪৮ টকা লাগে। তাৰ কাৰণে চাউলৰ দাম বেচি হৈ যায়।



এবার ২ নয়া পইছাৰ কাৰণে Tihu ত কলে যে, Rice could not be supplied এই বিলাক বেমেজালিৰ কাৰণে বহু সময়ত লোকে কষ্ট পায়। এই দুই নয়া পইছা দিহে পিচত টিছৰ পৰা চাউল আনিলো। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই S.D.O. ৰ চিঠি ধন পড়ে।

“Subdivisional Officer, Mangaldai.

The transport charges allowed for this centre *vide* your No. DMS. 8/56, dated 8th June 1957, are 1.62 Np. Therefore the deduction should have been of Rs.145.80 Np and not Rs.145.82 Np. Therefore the rice cannot be supplied.

Sd. Illigible,  
G. S. Tihu,

12th June 1957”.

Who will be responsible for that whether the Supply Inspector of Mangaldai or the Subdivisional Officers of Mangaldai or the Superintendent in-charge of Tihu Godowh ?

মই বহুতো গোলাবালৰ কথা জানো। বাইজে ভাবে মফলদেৰ Supply Inspector এ ঠিকমতে বিল পাচ কৰে, কিন্তু বাইজে চাউল নাপায়। চাউল Blackmarket কৰে। এনে দেখাবোধ হীন কৰ্মচাৰীক অকল Transfer য়েই নহয়, কামৰ পৰা বৰখাস্ত কৰা উচিত। নহলে দুৰ্নীতি নিবাবণ নহয়।

সস্তীয়া দোকানৰ চাউলৰ নমুনা স্বৰূপে মই কও যে, গুৱাহাটীৰ তেনে দোকান এখনত যোগোৱা চাউলৰ নমুনা চাওক। (সদস্যই এটি কাগজৰ টোপোলাত অলপ চাউল যোগান মন্ত্ৰীৰ ওচৰলৈ পঠিয়াই দিয়ে)।

**Shri DANDI RAM DATTA (Mangaldai):** এই চাউল তেখেতৰ ঘৰৰ পৰা আনিছে হবলা।

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** মোৰ ঘৰত জহা চাউল খোৱা হয়। এই চাউল এজন খৰিদ্দাবেহে মোক দিছে। (হাঁহি)

যি হওক, বৰ্তমান মই চৰকাৰক ইয়াকেই কবলৈ বিচাৰিছো যে, অসমৰ উৎকট খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ আৰু খাদ্য সামগ্ৰীৰ দাম কমাবলৈ হলে বাইজৰ উৎপাদনত জোৰ দিব লাগিব। দুখীয়া খেতিয়কক গৰু ম'হ কিনাৰ সাহায্য, সঁচৰ ধান আদি দিব লাগিব। মিঠাইত পানী নাই তাত পানী আৰু মিঠাইত বানপানী হয়, তাত বান্ধ আদি বন্ধাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগিব। তাৰ পিছত যাতে পোক আদিৰ দ্বাৰা শস্য নষ্ট নহয়, তাৰ উপযুক্ত ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰৰ ওৰফৰ পৰা গ্ৰহণ কৰিব লাগিব। তাৰ লগে লগে যিবিলাক খেতিয়ক ইতিপূৰ্বে ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত হৈ খোৱাৰ সংস্থান নাই, সেইসকলক খাদ্য যোগালেহে প্ৰকৃত সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হব বুলি মই ভাবো।



অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ অসমৰ দৰে সুজলা সুফলা শস্য-শ্যামলা দেশ, য'ৰ মাটি ইমান সুন্দৰ যে যি কোনো শস্য ইয়াত উৎপাদন কৰিব পাৰি। সেই অসমত আজি খাদ্যৰ অভাৱ হোৱাৰ নিমিত্তে আন প্ৰদেশৰ মানুহে আমাক উপহাস কৰে যে যত সহজে খাদ্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি কৰিব পাৰি তাতেই আজি খাদ্যৰ অভাৱ। এইটো বৰ লাজৰ কথা। সেই কাৰণে মই আমাৰ দায়িত্বপূৰ্ণ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যেন অসমৰ বাহিৰত আমাক লাজৰ পৰা বচাবৰ বাবে যথোচিত ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লয়।

(A voice তাৰ বাবে কি কৰিব লাগে ?)

উৎপাদন বঢ়াব লাগে। সেই কাৰণে মই খাদ্য আৰু কৃষি মন্ত্ৰীক কেইটামান পৰামৰ্শ দিম বুলি ভাবিছিলো কিন্তু সময়ৰ অভাৱ হোৱা বাবে আজি দিব নোৱাৰিম। আমাৰ ইয়াত যিবিলাক eviction হয় সাধাৰণতে সেই বিলাক Rainy season ত আবদ্ধ হয়। তাৰ ফলত শস্য নষ্ট হয় গতিকে Eviction বন্ধ কৰিব লাগে, যদি অগত্যা কৰিব লগা সেই শীত কালত Eviction কৰিবৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

**Shri HERESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) :** আমি সেই ব্যৱস্থা কৰিম।

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : (Panery)** আৰু এটা কথা। আমি যি চাহ খাওঁ সেই চাহ অসমতে উৎপন্ন হয়, কিন্তু অসমতেই তাৰ দাম বেচি। অসমতে পেট্ৰল উৎপন্ন হয় কিন্তু অসমতে পেট্ৰলৰ দাম বেচি। সেই কাৰণে food ৰ দাম বঢ়াত ই সহায় কৰে।

**Shri DANDI RAM DUTTA (Mangaldai) :** পেট্ৰল কোনেও নাখায়।

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY :** পেট্ৰল নাখায় হয়, কিন্তু যেতিয়া গুৱাহাটীৰ পৰা পেট্ৰল খৰচ কৰি চাউল লৈ যোৱা হয় তেতিয়া চাউলৰ দাম বাঢ়ি যায়। Transport ৰ cost কাৰণে food ৰ দাম বাঢ়ে। মই যেতিয়া কানপুৰলৈ যাওঁ তেতিয়া তাত ৭ মাইলত চাবি অনা দি গৈছো, কিন্তু আমাৰ ইয়াত ৭ মাইলত 11/0 অনা দিব লাগে।

গতিকে যাতে আমাৰ সুজলা সুফলা শস্য শ্যামলা অসমত খাদ্যৰ অভাৱ নহয় তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) :**  
Sir, may we know the name of the dealer from whom this sample of rice has been obtained ?

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY :** This sample was given to me by a certain consumer at Gauhati.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI :** Did the hon. Member go to the shop himself ?

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY :** It is the duty of the Inspector to go to the shop.



**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):** What is the name of the dealer ?

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The hon. Member had said that he obtained the sample from a certain consumer.

(Voices—Why the hon. Member did not complain about this at Gauhati ?)

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** I am not allowed to do that. It is for the consumer to go and complain.

**Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding):** When the sample of rice has been given to the Hon'ble Minister, Supply in the House, why the name of the dealer is not also given in the House?

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY:** Because I think that the Hon'ble Supply Minister is concerned in this regard.

(Voices: Why that consumer did not go to get his rice from the Fair Price shops ?)

Perhaps that consumer could not get his rice from the fair price shops.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** The quality of the sample of rice brought by the hon. Member is not so bad, but because the hon. Member himself eats Joha rice, so he says that the sample of rice he has brought is bad.

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Supply):** What is the name of the dealer he has given ?

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The hon. Member does not know the name of the dealer but the hon. Member has got the sample from a certain consumer.

**Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (Deputy Minister):** When the hon. Member has brought the sample of rice to the House, why he cannot give the name of the dealer. In this case there is suspicion that the rice is artificially blackened. If the name of the dealer is given it will be easy on the part of Government to make an enquiry and if necessary the rice can also be medically examined.



**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) :** Alright I will give the name tomorrow.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The hon. Member will give the name of the dealer later on.

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY :** Now regarding production I am feeling shy...

(*Voices:* Why the hon. Member does not give suggestion ?)  
I have given my suggestion to the House.

If necessary, I will give my suggestion to the Hon'ble Food Minister and the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister because they are the Ministers responsible.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) :** For information of the hon. Member we have made that reference.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that this Assembly do now take into consideration the present food problem in the State.

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was going to make a statement yesterday about the food situation here in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills. The position is indeed very bad. We read in the papers that the food position in other parts of the State also is not good at all. There are scarcity areas almost everywhere on account of flood, drought and other factors. Here in the district of Khasi and Jaintia Hills, famine conditions prevail in many parts of the district. We have heard of the distress of the people for lack of rice. From the border areas we get reports that people are suffering terribly ; many of them do not get any rice to eat. I shall read some of the letters, which state that the people are really in great distress.

Now, Sir, the Hon'ble Supply Minister met members of the public here in Shillong and nominated a Food Advisory Committee ; that was about two months ago. The Food Advisory Committee met in Shillong and discussed this matter very seriously. We stated that rice should go to all the villages. The people in many villages in the interior do not know that Government had started fair price shops. Then, these fair price shops are not able to supply the needs of the people in every



village. This has caused a great deal of discontent. The people say, "Why should Government give fair price shops only for certain areas? We in the interior do not get any rice at all." Sir, this system of fair price shops is not all satisfactory; it has created a great deal of discontent. Therefore, Sir, it is very necessary for the Government to consider whether they should not change the fair price shops into real ration shops, especially in this district which is practically suffering from famine. Sir, in this district, there were heavy rains for the last two months in some areas and crops were destroyed on account of that. But in other parts of this district there was drought and people cannot sow their seeds. When seeds are sown, the plants grow a little and then are dried up. So, conditions are very bad. In the border areas particularly, there were heavy rains for the last two months, destroying all crops, whereas here in the Shillong area we did not get any rains; even the potato crop has suffered greatly for lack of rains. As a result of these vagaries of nature the people are feeling the pinch of famine and are asking the Government to give them rationed rice. Therefore, Sir, almost all of us, who met and discussed together in the Food Advisory Committee, had stressed on the Government to change the fair price shops to real ration shops, which can be started in every village. There is, of course, a doubt whether this rice will reach the consumers. I believe, Sir, we can make arrangements in such a way that the rice will reach the consumer and will not be smuggled to Pakistan. This can be done by the Associations of consumers in every village, who will arrange their own men to come and get rice from the Government stock here and then distribute to the consumers there. These permit-holders will be at the mercy of the consumers; they will have to give this rice to the consumers; they will be responsible to them. The existing fair price shop system has been objected to on account of various defects. One defect is that it cannot reach all the consumers. This system has been introduced only with a view to make rice cheaper. A person gets a permit to have a fair price shop in a certain locality, but he can sell that rice to anybody; he can sell only to his friends, he can give to any one he likes, many do not get any cheap rice at all. Therefore, the complaint is that these fair price shops do not at all meet the needs of the really needy people. Then, the amount of rice given is also small and, therefore, it cannot reach all the needy people in the villages. The amount of rice given to permit-holders is so small that it cannot feed all the areas. We find here in Shillong also that a certain amount of rice was given to a fair price shop and the Government wanted to issue ration cards for that shop. But



then when we discussed about the introduction of ration cards, we felt that it was not possible for anybody to take responsibility for issuing ration cards because in the ration cards it will have to be mentioned the amount of rice to be supplied to a consumer. But adequate supplies of rice were not available to issue rice according to the amount mentioned in the ration card. This would have created trouble for all concerned. People would have gone with their ration cards to the shop concerned only to find that adequate supply of rice was not available. This is also the condition of our fair price shops now. The quantity of rice supplied is so small that some people get it, others do not.

**Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar):** Does the hon. Member suggest that any quantity should be allowed to be purchased ?

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** No, what I mean is this : say, a man is allowed to purchase three seers of rice per week from a fair price shop in a certain area. The supply of rice to the shop is so inadequate that it cannot satisfy the needs of all the people of the locality even at the rate of issue prescribed by Government. The fair price shop system is subject to corruption also. I am informed that if a man sells rice to another man there is nobody to check him, because an Inspector goes only once in many days to the fair price shops. There are few Inspectors. So the permit holder is not responsible to anybody. Therefore, people here in Shillong in the Advisory Committee tried to localise the area even for the fair price shops. I am strongly of opinion that the people in the district should be supplied with rice through ration shops on account of the famine condition prevailing in the district and that the system of fair price shops should be changed. At the time when there is famine, every village should be reached with the supply of rice, which means that every consumer should get rice. The consumers in a locality will form a committee to check the permit holder and the quantity of rice which has been brought by him to the locality with a view to distribute among the consumers of the locality. The committee will decide how much rice each family will get. This is the only way to stop smuggling and corruption in the supply of rice by the Government to the people. At present nobody can deny that there is corruption in the supply of rice by Government. Many needy people are not getting rice at cheaper rate.

The other day my hon. Friend from Nongstoin constituency spoke about the famine condition prevailing on the border of the Garo Hills and the United Khasi and Jaintia



Hills. The people are in great distress there on account of the fact that there was flood and the people lost their paddy. There were also heavy rains which spoiled the crops, and the people could not get enough food from any neighbouring areas.

The other day while we were discussing in this House about the suffering people at Larpany near Balat Bazar, my report which I based on the report of the people of the locality was read. I was told that the Garos who fled from Pakistan to Larpany, a village in the Bhowal Syiemship near Balat Bazar, are in a starving condition and that many of them have no food to eat and that they live on jungle roots and leaves. So I sent some one to go to the area and to send a report to me. That was done. I sent the report to the Deputy Commissioner of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills. He directed the Sub-Deputy Collector to go to the area and to take rice with him to distribute among those people. The Sub-Deputy Collector submitted a report to the Deputy Commissioner and did not distribute the rice. But unfortunately, the report which I got from the people of Larpany area after the Sub-Deputy Collector had gone there is quite different from the report given by the Sub-Deputy Collector. I got the report the other day. I think these people must be given help by Government. I want to place the letter by the Garos of Larpany which was addressed to the Deputy Commissioner, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, as it is. The House will hear this and I pass no judgement, I only place facts. The letter was written in Khasi and the literal translation of the letter is given here.

This is the letter—

“To—The Deputy Commissioner, Khasi-Jaintia Hills,  
Shillong.

U Bongkhim Mulor and others from Larpany, Bhowal—  
Petitioners.

Sir,

There is great gratitude of us, the Garos, to you the good hearted Government that you have sent for us 30 maunds of rice to help us the poor and hungry Garos at Larpany.

But the great sorrow was that almost all of us Garos were not in the village on the 30th May, 1957 when the Sub-Deputy Collector came to see our houses and the people of our village because many went to get jungle roots and other kinds of jungle things to be eaten. For that reason the Sub-Deputy Collector did not see the cooking pots of the Garos in which they cook mixing many kinds of jungle leaves or vegetables.



There were only some people on that day. There were only one or two Garos who understood the Khasi language, as the Sub-Deputy Collector spoke and it was like this—

When he saw somewhat big houses which were well built, he said—these people have food. When he saw the cow-sheds near the houses of the people, he said—these are houses of rich people. When he saw bundles of dead wood or fuel tied together to be taken for sale he said, 'these people get money to buy rice'. When he saw the women pounding paddy to prepare rice he asked them—They replied to him that they were pounding the seed paddy because they had no more rice. He said—They have rice to eat. There were houses in which he entered inside, and saw their earthen pots or bamboo receptacles in which they put rice, where he saw one or two condensed-milk-tins of rice, and he said, 'they have rice to eat'. He said the Government sent me to give rice to the people who are starving to die. He was led inside the house in which there was one who was lying starving and weak—he said this man is lying sick—go and get medicine. He went and saw another person who did not get food for several nights, he was lean, his belly was driven to the backbone and was small—he said—this man has a weakening disease.

Afterwards he said, if rice is distributed, you will get only one or two seers each. That will not be enough to be of any help to you, it will be better that I shall report to the Government to open a road from Balat to the Larpany, then you will get works and it will help you much to live.

So there was no distribution of rice to us up till now.

So in all these days and weeks for the sake of those who are lying weak owing to starvation, and because they do not get any more food, we are trying our best to get help by begging or asking people to give help in order that these people may live. Now is the time when we should work hard in order to sow and plant our paddy. But when we do not get food to eat, we feel weak and become tired soon.

Therefore if the Government will be merciful to us to give us rice, this will be a great help to us, and with our little means also we shall be able to finish our cultivation.



Then on account of your kindness we shall be very grateful to you.

Petitioners :—

U Bongkhim Mulor, Headman, Larpany.

U Sel Song of Larpany.

Horis Sangma and others, Larpany.

Dated Larpany,

The 20th June, 1957.

Writer—U. S. D. Dkhar.”

Then, Sir, this is the state of affairs obtaining in the area. Government will make a thorough investigation about these people by a competent officer. There is difference between the official report and the non-official report. These are need for investigation. I finally Sir, request the Government to consider about increasing the amount of rice to be given to the consumers of this district.

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West)**: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to discuss the present food situation in the State of Assam. The price of rice still high and it is still on the increase. The present Government has taken certain measures to check this upward trend of price level in respect of rice but in spite of it, the prices of sugar, flour, cereals and other essential commodities are still soaring high in this State. In Cachar, even the slight dislocation of railway communication, specially of the Hill Section, gives a further spurt to the price level of commodities of daily use. There is no scope to check this rise in price of essential commodities including even Kerosene. So, Sir, I request Government to empower the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar so that he can take steps to maintain the price level even when abnormal condition occurs. The prospect of Aus crop in Cachar is not hopeful and I feel Government should take precautionary measures from now on to supply cereals and other foodstuffs to Cachar so that sufficient stock may be kept ready to avert any emergency. I do not like to give any more suggestions at the moment as I feel, popular Government as it is, it will always remain vigilant to the rightful demands and the genuine grievances of the people. The last request that I would like to make in this connection is with regard to smuggling of rice from the border areas of Cachar. Unless Government exercise a stricter vigilance on this menace of smuggling, no amount of food-stuff supplied to Cachar will ever be successful in putting a stop to the rising price level of essential commodities that is obtaining in Cachar to-day.

Thank you.



**Shrimati PADMA KUMARI GOHAIN (Moran) :** মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, খাদ্য সমস্যা বিষয়ে দু'আঘাৰ মান কবলৈ সুযোগ দিয়াত উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো। আজি গোটেই অসমৰ খাদ্য অনাটনে এটা বিৰাট পৰিস্থিতি বা আকাল উপস্থিত কৰাৰ সম্ভাবনা নাই। বৰ্তমান যোগান মন্ত্ৰীয়ে উপলব্ধি কৰি ঠিক সময়তে খাদ্য সমস্যা একেবাৰে জটিলতৰ অৱস্থাত যাতে নপৰে তাৰ কাৰ্য্যকৰী ব্যবস্থা হাতত লৈছে। তেখেতৰ কাৰ্য্যকৰী শক্তিয়ে আমাৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা বহু খিনি সমাধান কৰিব বুলি মোৰ বিশ্বাস। আজি এই খাদ্য সমস্যা এটা জটিল সমস্যা হিচাবে উদ্ভব হৈছে বুলি বহুতে বিশ্বাস কৰে। কিন্তু মই নিজে বিশ্বাস কৰো যে চৰকাৰ তথা যোগানমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে যিদৰে সমৰোপযোগী ব্যবস্থা লৈছে তাৰ দ্বাৰা অসমত এই সমস্যাই জটিল আকাৰ ধৰণ কৰিব নোৱাৰিব।

অসমত খাদ্য সমস্যাই দেখা দিয়া গাঁচা কিন্তু আমি জানো এই সমস্যাত প্ৰাকৃতিক দুৰ্যোগ যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে দায়ী। এই সদনত বহুতে চৰকাৰ সমালোচনা কৰে আৰু চৰকাৰক সমালোচনা কৰিলে খবৰ কাগজত ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ কৈ ওলায় ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা আমাৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান হ'ব পাবেনে? আমাৰ যিটো খাদ্য অনাটন হৈছে সেইটো আন আন কাৰণেও হ'ব পাৰে। যেনেকৈ অল্প বৃষ্টিপাত হলে শস্য নহয় তেনেকৈ অতিপাত বৃষ্টিপাত হলেও খেতি নষ্ট হয়।

ইয়াৰ উপৰিও আন এটা কথা আমাৰ দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গী গঠনমূলক হোৱা প্ৰয়োজন। আমি এনেকুৱা দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গীৰে কাম কৰিব লাগে যাতে আমাৰ কামৰ দ্বাৰা জনসাধাৰণৰ উপকাৰ হয়। আমি ইয়াত নানা ধৰণৰ সমালোচনা কৰাতকৈ আমাৰ সমাজত যিবিলাক দুৰ্নীতি আছে সেইবোৰ কেনেকৈ গুচাব পাৰি তাৰহে চেষ্টা কৰা উচিত। আমি চাব লাগে যে যদি এজনে এখন ৰেশন কাৰ্ডত ১০ চাউল পায়, সেই ১০ চাউলহে যাতে এজনে নিয়ে। ১০ খন বেছন কাৰ্ড যোগাব কৰি আনি ১০ খন কাৰ্ডৰ চাউল যাতে এজনে নিব নোৱাৰে সেইবোৰ দুৰ্নীতি কেনেকৈ বন্ধ কৰিব পাৰি তাৰ যদি আমি চেষ্টা কৰো তেনেহলে মই ভাঠি ক'ব পাৰো আমাৰ খাদ্য সমস্যাই জটিল আকাৰ ধৰণ কৰিব নোৱাৰে এই বোৰ বন্ধ কৰিব নোৱাৰি কেবল সমালোচনা কৰিলে দেশত কেতিয়াও খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান নহয়। এনেকুৱা দুৰ্নীতি চলি থাকিলে স্বয়ং ভগবানো যদি Supply Minister হয় আমাৰ এই অনাটন দূৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰিব। গতিকেই মই কৈছো যে আমাৰ দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গী গঠনমূলক হ'ব লাগিব।

অৱশ্যে খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান ক্ষেত্ৰত আমাৰ কৃষি বিভাগবোৰ বহুখিনি দায়িত্ব আছে। সেইকাৰণেই মই ক'ব খোজো যে কৃষিবিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী, কৃষিবিভাগৰ উচ্চ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে বৰ্তমানে যি পৰিমাণে আমাৰ কৃষিৰ উন্নতি কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে তাত কৈ দুগুণ বেচি কৰিব লাগিব। তেওঁলোকে বৰ্তমানে যি পৰিমাণে ভ্ৰমণ কৰিছে তাৰকৈ বেচিকৈ ভ্ৰমণ কৰিব লাগিব আৰু কৃষক সকলক উপদেশ দিব লাগিব। মই এটা কথাত দুখ পাইছো যে যোৱা ৫ বছৰে আমাৰ উৰ্জনি অসমত কৃষিবিভাগৰ কোনো উচ্চবিদ্যালয় পদাৰ্পণ কৰা নাই। আৰু সেই ৫ বছৰৰ ভিতৰতে আমাৰ অসমত প্ৰাকৃতিক দুৰ্যোগ বেচি হৈছে।

মহোদয়, আমাৰ অসমৰ প্ৰধান খাদ্য হল ধান। কিন্তু আমি দেখিছো অসমত ধান আৰু বানপানীৰ এটা ঘনিষ্ট সম্বন্ধ গৰি উঠিছে। যত বেচি বানপানী হয় তাত খেতি হ'ব নোৱাৰে কিন্তু খেতি হ'ব নোৱাৰাটোৱেই হ'ল অসমৰ জীৱন মৰণৰ সমস্যা। আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকল বিপন্ন হৈছে। একালে বানপানীয়ে খেতি শস্য নষ্ট কৰে; আনফালে তাৰ পিচতো যিখিনি শস্য বাচি থাকে সেইখিনিও নানা পোক পৰি শস্য খিনি ধ্বংস কৰে আৰু খেতিয়ক সকলক ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত কৰে। এইবিলাক আহকালৰ পৰা যাতে আমাৰ খেতিয়কসকল ৰক্ষা পৰিব পাৰে তাৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ কৃষি বিভাগে আৱশ্যকীয় পৰামৰ্শ



আগবঢ়াবৰ দৰ্কাৰ হৈ পৰিছে। বৰ্ত্তমান আমাৰ কৃষিবিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় ডেকা মানুহ। তেখেতে নতুন উৎসাহেৰে কামত হাত দি এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰাত সমৰ্থ হব বুলি মই আশা কৰো। আমি দেখিছো যে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান কৰাৰ উপায় এতিয়াও মানুহৰ যত্নৰ বাহিৰ হোৱা নাই মই বিশ্বাস কৰো যে বৰ্ত্তমান যি খাদ্যসমস্যাৰ বিষয়ে আমি কাগজে পত্ৰই দেখিছো আৰু তাৰ সমাধান কৰে চৰকাৰে যি তৎপৰ ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লৈছে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান নোহোৱাকৈ থাকিব নোৱাৰে। ৰাইজক উৎপাদনৰ কামত আগবঢ়াই নিবলৈ আমাৰ নতুন মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলীয়ে যি কাৰ্য্যকৌশলতৰে যত্নবান হব লাগে সেইখিনি নকৰাকৈ নাথাকে বুলিয়েই মই বিশ্বাস ৰাখি মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari Reserved for Scheduled Tribes]:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want also to participate in the discussion of the food problem to acquaint this House and the Government the acute food situation in the Garo Hills District. This acute food problem is not only in the Garo Hills, but, as we know, it is all over the State of Assam. Therefore it is very essential that every one of us should be allowed to speak on it. In the beginning, I was very much disappointed to find that the Minister in charge and some hon. Members in the treasury benches are not very serious about it. Sir, it has become an established fact that the food problem is very acute here, specially in the hill areas. Government should be fully alive to the situation. As you know, Sir, we, in the Hills, are not self-sufficient in the matter of food. We are to import rice and paddy from outside and we are to pay high price for imported rice or paddy. Our people are to depend on imported rice and paddy specially this year because Jhum cultivation has totally failed this year. We do not have much wet cultivation and the Jhum cultivation is not giving us sufficient rice production. As I said, this year, particularly, the situation has become worse due to prolonged and unusual drought. All our Jhum crops have failed. Not only that, the Aus cultivation in the plains areas also has failed. Therefore, from October onwards the food situation in our District will be still worse. Government up till now have not taken up any scheme by which the hill districts can be made self-sufficient as far as food is concerned. Of course fair price shops have been established here and there and the people are getting their rice at subsidised rate. On a previous occasion I informed this House that people, not only in my areas but in other hill districts also, are not in a position to get the supply of rice from the fair price shops even at subsidised rate. They have absolutely no means of earning to purchase rice from such shops. At present the rice is being sold in the fair price shops at Rs.21-8-0 per maund and our people are not in a position to pay that amount to get their rice. It is therefore a very very serious matter. Sir, though



some rice is available in the fair price shops the people are made to starve because they cannot afford to buy rice from those shops. Last time I had an occasion to draw the attention of this House to the expenditure incurred by the Government in cloth distribution in our District. I said that when the Government could distribute cloth free of cost upto such an amount then why not Government come forward today to distribute rice free of cost to the starving people in the hill areas?

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar)**: Does the Hon'ble Member want that rice should also be distributed free of cost?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari Reserved for Scheduled Tribes]**: Certainly, when the Government thought it desirable to supply cloth to the Garo free of cost because they are very poorly clad and for that purpose could spend Rs.50,000, I do not see any reason as to why the Government should not be prepared to spend double of that amount in the supply of food free of cost to the starving people. I suggest this because the people are not in a position to buy rice even at subsidised rate of Rs.21-8-0 per maund. In fact though Fair Price Shops are there and rice is available in those shops people are starving as they have absolutely no purchasing capacity. I want therefore to impress upon the Government that in comparison food gets priority over cloth. If today I die of starvation and thereafter I am placed on this floor naked nothing will happen to me. I shall not then be able to realise whether I am placed on the floor with nice cloth or without any cloth. I can think of putting on good and decent dress when I am alive and physically fit. So food is more essential than cloth. Our people do not die because they put on scanty cloth, but they are dying of starvation. That is why I have been trying to impress upon this House that when the Government could spend Rs.50,000 for free distribution of cloth in Garo Hills, today the Government should spend that amount for feeding the starving people. If the Minister comes with me to see the condition of the people in the villages of Garo Hills he will surely find that the people are either starving to death or living on jungle roots and bamboo shoots. Unfortunately this year our people, due to drought, are not getting even bamboo shoots. This is the actual position that is happening in our Hills. Sir, at the time when the cloth was distributed no enquiry was made as to whether a particular person was actually in need of cloth or not. The local authorities would simply visit the market places and distribute the cloth at random. I give an instance. At Garobadha hut one



man came to the authorities to receive cloth with a 'baniyan' (vest) on his body, so he was refused cloth. The same man went away a little distance and put off his vest. After some time he came back bare body and approached the authorities for cloth and he received ; so where is the proper enquiry? But I am sure that the Government will reply that food cannot be distributed free without first making proper enquiry. In fact the people were forced to receive cloth in market places when people did not come forward to receive cloth.

Sir, as I said earlier, though Cheap Grain Shops have been opened here and there this will not permanently solve the food problem in our Hills. This food situation will repeat every year unless something is done to make the Hill areas self-sufficient in food. Therefore something must be done in this regard. Some schemes should be drawn up so that this food problem will not be repeated every year. Scheme for increasing food production in the hill areas should be taken up immediately.

In the meantime, I would make an appeal to this House and through this House to the Government to spend one lakh of rupees, the amount which Government was prepared to spend before the last general election for purchase of cloth for free distribution to the people of Garo Hills. I opposed it and so it was not implemented. I know that some Congress M.L.A.'s of the district wanted it. Sir, the Government was at that time prepared to spend rupees one lakh for free distribution of cloth, let that amount be spent today for feeding the starving people and save these unfortunate people from death by starvation.

Sir, it may be said that I am excited. Of course, I have got to be excited because the food situation in the hill areas is very very serious. We do not shout. We do not make publicity in the papers. But we die of starvation unnoticed.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** You are arguing the same point over and over again.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] I am not repeating but I am simply bringing to the notice of the House a serious matter in order that the Government come to the rescue of these unfortunate starving people.

I have some suggestion to put forward. Firstly, fair price shops should be increased throughout the hill areas and not



only transport cost should be subsidised but price should be subsidised so that poorer section of the people can take advantage of the shops. Secondly, in the hill areas gratuitous relief should be given and in the plain areas loans should be given because there is failure of crops. Thirdly, test relief work should be started in different parts of the hill areas. In doing this we will be able to find out each scheme which will be given permanent benefit. We will be able to find out what work should be given to a particular area. In some areas there should be irrigation which will help in reclaiming land. In another area embankment work may be undertaken whereby some land can be brought under cultivation. In another area road construction work may be taken up. In this way people may be given means of earning. These are my suggestions.

Sir, although you have asked me not to repeat but I will repeat that when Government wanted to spend rupees one lakh for free distribution of cloth, Government should spend that money now to save the people from starvation which is their bounden duty.

With these observations, I want to impress upon the House the serious food situation which is prevailing not only in the hill areas but also in the plain areas of the State.

I want to make a last appeal that if the Hon'ble Supply and Food Ministers are not convinced with the statement I made let them tour with me in the interior of the Garo Hills and I will show them hundreds of starving people. Of course, it may be said that they are not starving but having some disease.

(The time bell rings and the Member resumes his seat).

**Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) :-**মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, খাদ্য সঙ্কট সম্বন্ধে যি আলোচনা হৈছে সেই আলোচনাত যোগ দিবলৈ সুবিধা দিয়াৰ বাবে ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো। মহাশয়, যেতিয়া মই সস্তীয়া দোকান বা বেচন দোকানৰ নাম শুনে তেতিয়া মই বৰ অস্থিৰ অনুভৱ কৰো। যিখন দেশ স্বাৱলম্বী আছিল, যিখন দেশ মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীপাটোৱাৰী ডাঙনীয়াই কোৱাৰ দৰে সুজলা সুফলা শস্য শ্যামলা বুলি গোঁৱৰ অনুভৱ কৰে। সেই দেশতে আজি সস্তীয়া দোকান আৰু বেচন দোকান প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰিব লগীয়া হোৱাটো বৰ দুখৰ কথা।

আমি অতীজৰে পৰা প্ৰকৃতিৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি চলি আহিছো। কিন্তু যোৱা বৰ ভূমিকম্পৰ পিচৰ পৰা অসমৰ প্ৰাকৃতিক অৱস্থাৰ বহুত সাল-সলনি হবলৈ ধৰিলে—এঠাইত অনাবৃষ্টি এঠাইত বহুবৃষ্টি আৰু এঠাইত ধুমুহা আন ঠাইত বানপানী হবলৈ ধৰিছে। আজি শিৱগাঁৱত অতি বৃষ্টি হৈছে আৰু নগাঁৱত অনাবৃষ্টি হৈছে আৰু কামৰূপত বানপানী



হৈ বাইজক জুলমত পেলাইছে। ইয়াৰ লগতে আৰু এটা কথা কওঁ যে আমাৰ দেশত জনসংখ্যাৰ বৃদ্ধি বৰ বেচি হ'ব ধৰিছে। ১৯৫১ চনৰ পিয়ল মতে লামডিঙৰ জনসংখ্যা মাত্ৰ ৩,০০০ আছিল, কিন্তু এতিয়া তাৰ জনসংখ্যা ২৮,০০০ হৈছেগৈ। এইটো মই উদাহৰণহে দিছো।

আৰু এটা কথা হৈছে যে আমাৰ দেশৰ সীমাতে বিদেশী বাঢ়ি আছে। যেতিয়া সেই বাঢ়িত খাদ্যৰ অভাৱ হয় তেতিয়া আমাৰ দেশৰ লাভখোৰ লোকসকলে বেচি লাভৰ অশাত সেই বাঢ়িলৈ খাদ্যৰ চোৰাং বণ্টনী কৰাৰ কলতো আমাৰ দেশত খাদ্যভাৰ হোৱা স্বাভাৱিক। ইফালে আমাৰ দেশলৈ বহিৰাগতৰ সোঁত ক্ৰমে বাঢ়িবলৈ ধৰিছে। সেই-কাৰণে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে খাদ্য বৃদ্ধি কৰিবলৈ আপ্ৰাণ চেষ্টা কৰা স্বত্বেও আজি এটা নিশ্চিষ্ট অৱস্থাত পৰিণত হ'ব পৰা নাই। আজি আমাৰ দেশত খাদ্য মজুত থকা স্বত্বেও মহাজন সকলে দাম বৃদ্ধি কৰিছে। আমাৰ যোগান মন্ত্ৰীয়ে শদিয়াৰ পৰা ধুবুৰীলৈকে দৌবা-দৌৰি কৰি দাম কমাবৰ বাবে যি প্ৰচেষ্টা কৰিছে সেইটো বিশেষ প্ৰশংসনীয়।

(A voice—Production লাগে।)

I am coming to production, Hon'ble Member should have patience. উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি কৰিবৰ বাবে প্ৰচেষ্টা আৰু ধৈৰ্য্যৰ আৱশ্যক। প্ৰথম পাঁচবছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাত কৃতকাৰ্য্য হ'বৰ বাবে আজি যেনেকৈ আমাৰ নেতাসকলে ধৈৰ্য্য ধৰিছে ঠিক সেইদৰে জনসাধাৰনেও উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধিৰ বাবে ধৈৰ্য্য ধৰা দৰকাৰ। ধৈৰ্য্যৰ ওপৰতে সফলতা নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিছে। সেইকাৰণে আমি ভয় খাবৰ আৱশ্যক নকৰে।

তাৰ উপৰিও drainage, embankment আদি কৰি অধিক শস্য উৎপাদনৰ কাৰণে গৰণমেন্টে চিন্তা কৰিছে। অৱশ্যে ডাঙৰ নৈৰ মথাউৰি বান্ধি দিছে হয়, কিন্তু drainage system বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ পৰিকল্পনাৰ অভাৱৰ বাবে কৃতকাৰ্য্যতা-লাভ কৰিব পৰা নাই। Drainage কৰাৰ ভাৰ যিবিলাক কৰ্মচাৰীৰ ওপৰত তেওঁ-বিলাক মথাউৰি বন্ধাতেই ব্যস্ত 'কিন্তু খাল খান্দি খেতিৰ যি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে সেই ব্যৱস্থা তেওঁলোকে কৰিব পৰা নাই।

অৱশ্যে এইটো ঠিক যে গৰণমেন্টে River Valley Multi-purpose Project কৰিব বুলি কৈছে, কিন্তু আজিলৈকে সেই Multi-purpose Project সম্পৰ্কে একো কৰিব পৰা নাই। আজি দুবছৰৰ আগতে মই যেতিয়া কাশ্মীৰলৈ গৈছিলো তেতিয়া উখকল নৈত বানপানী হৈছিল। বন্ধী গোলাম মহম্মদৰ লগত কথা হওঁতে তেখেতে কৈছিল 'আমি এই উখকল নৈ control কৰিম।' আন আন দেশত যে এই-দৰে নৈ control কৰি খেতিৰ সুবিধা কৰি দিছে, এই কথাটো আমাৰ গৰণমেন্টে ভালকৈ লক্ষ্য কৰা উচিত। অৱশ্যে গৰণমেন্টৰ address আৰু অৰ্থসচিবৰ বক্তৃতাত কপিলী নৈত Multi-purpose project কৰিবৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে বুলি উল্লেখ কৰিছে হয় কিন্তু "কৰিছো, কৰিছো, হ'ব হ'ব" বুলিলেই এই বিষয়ে আগ বাঢ়িব নোৱাৰে। এই হ'ব টোৱে আমাক আমনি লগাইছে।

মই যি অঞ্চলৰ প্ৰতিনিধি হৈ আহিছো, সেই অঞ্চলটো আগৰে পৰা অনাবৃষ্টি অঞ্চল। সেই অঞ্চলত ৭৫০ টা ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ পুখুৰী আছে আৰু একো একোটা পুখুৰীয়ে ১০ একৰ পৰ্য্যন্ত মাটি জুৰি আছে। সেই পুখুৰী বিলাকৰ level ওপৰ আৰু চাৰিও কাষৰ মাটি তল। বোধকৰোঁ আগৰ দিনত খেতি কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তেই সেইবোৰ পুখুৰী খান্দিছিল। গৰণমেন্টে এওঁ বিষয়ে যদি ভালকৈ লক্ষ্য কৰি চাই যথোচিত ব্যৱস্থা অৱলম্বন কৰে তেন্তে মই যে লামডিং যমুনামুখ সমষ্টিৰ কথা কৈছো আৰু যি সমষ্টি কেটাই



Granary of Assam আখ্যা পাইছিল, তাত নিশ্চয় আমি বহুতো শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিব পাৰিম।

কাকি Project areaত বানপানীৰ অভাৱত খেতি নোহোৱা হৈছে। তাত deep tube well কৰিছে হয়, কিন্তু পানী নোলায় (laughter) পানী কিমান তলত আছে কোনেও নাজানে।

**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) :—**May I inform the hon. Member that tube well is not fit for cultivation.

**Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) :—**Looking at the opposition when I am speaking, the hon. Member should not speak.

সেইবোৰ tube well কি হিচাবে বহুৱাইছিল নাজানো, কিন্তু যি 80,000 একৰ মাটি reclaim কৰা হৈছে তাত যদি deep tube well successful হ'লহেতেন তেন্তে সেই মাটিত ভাল খেতি হ'লহেতেন। গতিকে এনেকুৱা কিছুমান কথা আছে যিবিলক গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে ভালকৈ চাব লাগে। সেই অঞ্চলত খাদ্যৰ যি অনাটন হৈছে তাৰ নিমিত্তে সিদিনা ৫০ জন মানুহৰ এটা deputation আহিছিল। অৱশ্যে তেওঁলোকৰ যি demand সেই demand পৰিপূৰ্ণ কৰিবলৈ অন্ততঃ ৪৫ লাখ টকাৰ প্ৰয়োজন। কিন্তু আজি গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে এটা অঞ্চলৰ কাৰণে ৪৫ লাখ টকা এটা Head ত খৰচ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। আৰু সেইটো সমীচীন নহয় আৰু ময়ো তাক সমীচীন বুলি ক'ব নোৱাৰোঁ। আমি যদিও কোনো এটা সমষ্টিৰ পৰা মেম্বৰ নিৰ্বাচিত হৈ আহিছো, আমি ইয়াত গোটেই অসমৰে উন্নতিৰ প্ৰতি লক্ষ্য ৰাখিব লাগিব। সেইকাৰণে আমি গোটেই অসমৰ মেম্বৰ হিচাবে বিবেচনা কৰি অসম প্ৰগতিৰ কথাই ক'ব লাগিব। অথচ সিবি মহোদয়ে এই বিষয়ে যিখিনি চেষ্টা কৰিছে তাৰ কাৰণে তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ দিওঁ। অৱশেষত মই যি কেইটা suggestion দিছোঁ সেই কেইটা suggestion ৰ প্ৰতি যেন গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে লক্ষ্য ৰাখে। মোৰ suggestion হৈছে (১) irrigation ৰ নিমিত্তে সুপৰিকল্পিত আচনি হাতত ল'ব লাগে, (২) climatic change এটা Research work ৰ ব্যৱস্থা হাতত ল'ব লাগে, (৩) পৰিকল্পিত ভাবে উন্নত খেতিৰ দিহা কৰি খাদ্য বঢ়াব লাগে আৰু (৪) বৰ্ত্তমানে যি দৰে deforestation হৈছে সেইদৰে যেন deforestation নহয় সেইটোও চাব লাগে।

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Supply) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I know, when the Chair proposes that this debate should conclude, and what time is proposed to be given to me for reply?

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Generally half an hour.

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance)**  
But, Sir, only 35 minutes remain.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Schedule Tribes)] :** Sir, this is a very important matter and I think, we should continue till Monday next.



**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House will adjourn at 4 p. m. or (looking at the Opposition) do you want to sit to-day for half an hour more ?

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** The Chair may extend the House for half an hour more.

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Supply):** I am not objecting to anything, Sir, but I am only seeking information from the Chair, I am at the disposal of the House and the Chair.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes. The debate will continue till Monday next.

**Shri SAI SAI TERANG [Mikir Hills-East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, শ্রীৰামনাথ শৰ্ম্মাই কৈ গৈছে যে শিৱসাগৰ জিলাত বেচি বৰষুণ হয় আৰু নগাঁও জিলাত বেচি বৰষুণ নহয়। ঠিক সেইদৰে আমাৰ মিকিৰ পাহাৰ জিলাতো বৰষুণ নোহোৱা হৈছে। বানপানী যে নায়েই, তাৰ উপৰিও নিগনিৰ উপদ্রব। নিগনি আৰু এবিধ ফৰিং (A voice—কাকতী ফৰিং) জাকে জাকে আহি পকাধানো নষ্ট কৰি পেলায়। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে কাৰ গাত দায় মই কব নোৱাৰোঁ। (laughter)। ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও বনৰীয়া মুৰগী জাকে জাকে গৈ বান নষ্ট কৰে। সিহতে এহেজাৰ—দুহেজাৰ এনেকৈ জাক বান্ধি যায়। (A voice—দাঁৰিক আছে নে নাই?) দাঁৰিকে আছে। নিগনি কেইবা বিধৰো। (A voice—সেইবোৰ এন্দুৰ হে হব পাৰে) হব পাৰে। ডাঙৰ মজলীয়া আৰু সৰু এই তিনিবিধ এন্দুৰ আছে। আজি দুবছৰৰে পৰা এন্দুৰবিলাকে মিকিৰ পাহাৰৰ জিলাৰ ধান আৰু আন আন খাদ্য বস্তু, আন কি বেঙেনা জলকীয়াৰ পাত পৰ্য্যন্ত খাই ধ্বংস কৰি পেলাইছে। সেই কাৰণে আজি দুবছৰ মিকিৰ পাহাৰৰ অৱস্থা বৰ শোচনীয় হৈ পৰিছে। গতিকে মই অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ চৰকাৰে যেন আমাৰ মিকিৰ মানুহ বিলাকক অতিসোনকালে কৃষি ঋণ দিয়ে। (A voice—বাস্তা লাগে নে নালাগে?) বাস্তা চৰকাৰে কৰিয়েই আছে। আৰু কিমান বাস্তা দিব? (laughter) এই যে খেতি হোৱা নাই, এইটো চৰকাৰৰ দোষতেই হৈছে নে, বানপানী নোহোৱাৰ দোষতেই হৈছে নে, আন মানুহৰ দোষতেই হৈছে সেইটো কব নোৱাৰোঁ। (laughter)। কিছুমানে কয় যে বৰষুণ নোহোৱাৰ কাৰণে খেতি নহল। আকৌ বেচিকৈ বৰষুণ হৈ বানপানী হলেও খেতি নহয় বুলি কয়। এতেকে দেখা যায় যে বৰষুণ বেচিকৈ হলেও দায়, নহলেও দায়। কাৰ দোষত এনেকুৱা হৈছে কব নোৱাৰোঁ। (laughter)। (A voice—বৰষুণ যদি হোৱা নাই তেন্তে বৰষুণ দিয়াবলৈ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰক) (renewed laughter)।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এতিয়া কৃষিঋণলৈ আহোঁ। দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক সকলৰ উপকাৰৰ কাৰণে অন্ততঃ পক্ষে যৰে প্ৰতি ১০০ বা ২০০ টকাকৈ কৃষিঋণ মন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব লাগে আৰু এই ঋণ এই মাহৰ ভিতৰতে দিব লাগে—অৰ্থাৎ জ লাই নামৰ ১৫/২০ তাৰিখৰ আগ ভাগতে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণ হৈছে এই মাহতে আমাৰ জুমখেতি আৰম্ভ হয় আৰু যিমানই নাপাওক ঋণৰ টকা পোৱাৰ আচল সময় এইটোৱেই। ইয়াৰ পিচলৈ গলে আৰু বাইজৰ উপকাৰ নহয়।



ইয়ায় পিচত চৰকাৰী সস্তীয়া দোকান সম্বন্ধে কও—আমাৰ মিকিৰ পাহাৰতো এই দোকান খোলাহৈছে যদিও মিকিৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ যেনেহেতু ক্ৰয় শক্তি নাই, অথবা হাজিৰা আদি কাম কৰি পয়চা উপাৰ্জন কৰিবলৈ কাম নাই—তেওঁলোকে দিনে দিনে বস্ত্ৰ কিনিবলৈ পয়চা কত পাব। যি দুইচাৰিজনৰ জুলুঙাত, দুই একটকা পয়চা থাকে সিওবছদিনীয় সাঁচতীয়া পয়চা আৰু তাক, বেতিয়া নহলেই নহয় তেতিয়াহে, খৰচ কৰিব পাৰে। সেই কাৰণে, আপোনালোকে হয়তো হাহিব যে, খেতিয়ক এজনে আধাখোৱা গোমধান এটাৰ পৰা আন জনে একমোৰ খাব লগাত পাবে।

এনেকুৱা অৱস্থাত তেওঁলোকে আৰু (হাঁহিৰ ধ্বনি) দৈনিক ব্যৱস্থাৰ কাৰণে ধান চাউল কিনিবলৈ পয়চা কত পাব? সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যেন, অধিক কৃষিক্ষেপৰ আঁহাৰ দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক সকলক খেতি কৰি আধিক অৱস্থাৰ টনকিয়াল কৰিবলৈ অতি সোনকালে যেন সহায় কৰে।

(সময় সংকেত)

আৰু এটা কথা কও.....

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই আনএটা কথাটো চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব খোজো—যে আমাৰ মিকিৰ পাহাৰৰ পূৰ্বেংনা মৌজাত বাঘৰ উপদ্ৰৱ বৰ বেচি হৈছে আৰু দিনে দিনে কেতিয়াবা বহুতো মানুহ মৰিছে। (সময় সংকেত) এই বিষয়ত চৰকাৰে বাঘ মাৰিবলৈ অতি সোনকালে যত্ন কৰিলে ভাল হয়, কাৰণ মই ডিফুলৈ যাওঁতে নজন মানুহক বাঘে মৰা বুলি শুনি আহিছে।

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):**  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard with deep attention the debate that has been going on in this House regarding the food situation in our State. It is no denying the fact that there is scarcity of food in our State. I feel that we should try to do something how to relieve this scarcity of food and how to relieve the people who are suffering from want of food and try to solve the problem so that this calamity may not recur again and again. The problem has two aspects; the immediate supply of food and a long term plan to increase production. Now the question before us here is how to solve immediately the food problem, how to give relief to the suffering people. What the Government has done towards this direction and what Government can do to increase production. Sir, some of my Friends have said that there are so many fair price shops, etc., but the purpose of these fair price shops is not the purpose of introducing ration system, but the real purpose for which the fair price shops have been established is to reduce the price of rice in the markets and to stabilise it. If that is the objective, then certainly I submit that to that extent we have been able to bring down the prices of this commodity; so, Sir, we must see that these fair price shops should serve the purpose for which



they have been established. As a matter of fact I quite agree that these fair price shops have not yet been established in all the interior parts or some particular areas in our State and to that extent we should see that these fair price shops should be established in all places as far as possible. In this connection, Sir, I may say for the information of the House that this problem of food was discussed at Gauhati with the Minister of Supply and Finance. In that discussion we devised some plans that whenever fair price shops are to be started there should be a Vigilance Committee who will take the responsibility of appointing the dealer of such fair price shops. It is the duty of this Vigilance Committee to see and examine everything and to inspect whether the actual quantity allotted to them has been lifted and brought to the shop and to make it a point that the fair price shops should distribute rice to all persons according to some principle. This Committee is also to see that those persons who are able to purchase rice from the open markets should not be allowed to draw their rice from the fair price shops so that persons who cannot buy from open market may get priority. Sir, regarding the food crisis in our State, I have found that many hon. Members have become over-conscious on the subject, of course we are conscious that there is scarcity of food in our State but I say that nothing can be done simply by abusing certain persons or officers. We must put our heads together and try together to solve the problem in a better way and it is the duty of the hon. Members of this House as well as the people outside to co-operate in solving this food problem otherwise no lasting solution of the problem can be obtained. My Friend, Shri Patwari, happens to come from a community of traders and merchants, so he knows things better than I as regards the prices of different commodities prevailing in different parts of the country and he has given a comparative estimate of the prices. As a matter of fact we have seen there are unscrupulous dealers and these unscrupulous dealers are responsible to some extent for not doing their part sincerely. They are also responsible for the mixture of rice, Atta, wheat, etc., with unedibles and due to their action the calamities are now prevailing in our State. Therefore, I say that we must co-operate with Government and unless we co-operate with Government we will not be able to eradicate these evils to bring about a solution of the food problem and check corruption. Unless we can develop our national character, unless we can discipline our spirit we cannot check corruption. To attain this end we must all co-operate and set an example before the public. In this connection, Sir, some of my Friends have stated that the scarcity



of food is due to the bad land policy of the Government and the defects that we have not been able to give settlements to the landless peasants. We must also consider the fact that there are large number of migrants coming to our State from the other parts of India and as for instance, in the Gauhati thana the population has been increased by 61 per cent in the 1951 census over that of the number of 1941 census. If within these few years the population had come to such a magnitude how do we expect that all these matters can be solved satisfactorily? We do not possess enough land even to settle the indigenous landless people. We have not been able to distribute land to the people coming from outside. It may be said that the increase of population not only brings so many mouths to be fed but also so many pairs of hands to work with. But work must be found out for them and they must also be willing to work what is offered to them.

Sir, I quite agree that we have not been able to give sufficient work so that they can earn their livelihood by working. But as a matter of fact, another problem to-day is that we have become too much relief-minded and when there is any calamity of any shape we begin convening public meetings; we at once begin writing to the Press; we begin delivering public lectures demanding this thing and that thing from Government, forgetting that we have also got some amount of responsibility for the solution of the problem. We must also try to emulate the spirit of self-reliance.

Then, Sir, some of my Friends have been all along confining their remarks to their own constituencies as if their constituencies are the only places where starvation conditions exist while milk and honey are flowing in other parts of the State! This is not the correct approach. We must consider the problem State-wise. I can say, Sir, no part of the State is unaffected and the problem is critical almost in all parts of the State. I would, therefore, ask my Friends opposite to consider the problem in its broad perspective. In order to solve this problem, all of us must put our heads together. We must not rest satisfied with only criticising the Government officers, who go to the villages in order to help the people.

Some persons have indulged in the habit of criticising whatever has been done by the Government. He will criticise and ridicule the officers who are entrusted with the development works in the villages. They never ask the people to co-operate with these officers and no attempt is made to derive the benefit under the schemes. Government should engage



more village level workers to see that production increases. There should be training centres in the villages so that better kind of cultivation can be obtained.

Then, Sir, I feel that Government should have a reserve stock. A large stock was in the hands of the Government and I feel they have not acted wisely in selling that stock as bad rice at a very low price (The time bell rang and the hon. Member resumed his seat).

**Shri GOPESH CHANDRA NAMASUDRA [Pathar-kandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] :** মাননীয় সহকারী অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমার মাননীয় বন্ধু সদস্য শ্রীহীরালাল পাটোয়ারী যে প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করেছেন আমি তার সমর্থনে আরো দুই একটি কথা বলতে চাই যদিও খাদ্যাবস্থা সম্পর্কে আমার নিজস্ব একটি প্রস্তাব ছিল।

স্বাধীনতা পাওয়ার দশ বছর পরেও কংগ্রেসী সরকার আজ আমাদের সামনে বলেন যে বন্যা আর অনাবৃষ্টির দরুণ আমাদের ফসলের ক্ষতি হয়ে যাচ্ছে—সরকার কি করবে? কেন্দ্র থেকে খাদ্য না আসলে সস্তাদরের দোকান খুলতে পারবে না। আমাদের সরকারের অপদার্থতাই বলতে হবে যে খাদ্যে স্বয়ং সম্পূর্ণ এই রাজ্য আসাম আজ নিজের খাদ্য সংগ্রহ করতে না পেরে কেন্দ্রের কাছে ভিক্ষা পাত্র নিয়ে দাঁড়ায়। ১৯৫৩-৫৪ ইংরেজীতে মৌসুমী বায়ু এবং প্রকৃতির অনুকূল আবহাওয়া পেয়ে আসামের কৃষক এত ফসল ফলিয়ে ছিলেন যে আমরা বাইরে ফসল বিক্রী করেছি; খাদ্য শস্যের দাম সে বৎসর খুব নেমে গিয়েছিল। আর কেন্দ্র হতে আমাদের রাজ্যের কণ্ঠধাররা পর্য্যন্ত তুবড়ী বাজিয়ে বলতে লাগলেন আমাদের প্রথম পঞ্চবার্ষিকী পরিকল্পনার জন্যই এ রকম হয়েছে। প্রথম পরিকল্পনা ছেড়ে ২য় পরিকল্পনায় অগ্রসর হয়ে গিয়েছি আমরা; কিন্তু পরিকল্পনার সাফল্য কোথায়? অনাবৃষ্টি আর অতিবৃষ্টি এই দুটাকে যদি আমরা জয় করতে না পারি যদি আমরা প্রকৃতির অনুকূল আবহাওয়ার উপরই নির্ভর করি তাহলে আমাদের পরিকল্পনার সাধকতা কোথায়? সত্যি কথা সরকারের কোন পরিকল্পনা কোন দুর্যোগের হাত থেকে আমাদের কৃষি ব্যবস্থাকে রক্ষা করতে পারেনি। তাই সামান্য একটু আঘাতেই আমাদের কৃষি অর্থনীতি ভেঙে পড়ে যায়।

সরকার সমান্তরাল বাঁধ বা Embankment-এর বাহাদুরী দেখান। তারা সমস্ত আসামে ১,৩৩৬ মাইল Embankment তৈরী করে ৫ লক্ষ একর জমি বন্যার হাত থেকে রক্ষা করে কৃষির উপযোগী করেছেন। পাগলাদিয়া, নোনা প্রভৃতি নদীর বন্যায় Embankment ভেঙে কামরূপের একটা বিরাট অঞ্চলের জনসাধারণের উপর যে দুর্যোগ আজ নেমে এসেছে আমরা সেদিন এই বিধান সভার কক্ষে তা আলোচনা করেছি। আমার নির্বাচন ক্ষেত্র রাতাবাড়ী-পাথারকান্দি থানায় আমরা দুর্ভাগারা প্রায় ৫০।৬০ মাইল Embankment পেয়েছি। স্থানীয় অধিবাসীর সংগে কোন পরামর্শ না করে নদীর বন্যার প্রকৃত তথ্য সংগ্রহ না করে চটকদারী বাহাবা লোটবার জন্য আর ৩ বৎসর হল পাথারকান্দিতে রক্ষা করার জন্য লংগাই নদীতে বাঁধ দেওয়া হয়েছে। পাথারকান্দির সরকারী অফিস বাসা প্রভৃতিতে বন্যার সময় জলের নীচে থাকে অন্য দিকে যে পর্বাঞ্চলে কোন দিন বন্যার জল প্রবেশ করতেনা আজ সেটাও জলে ভেসে যায়। আর পশ্চিম দিকের একটা বিরাট শস্যপূর্ণ মাঠকে যার আয়তন হবে প্রায় ৩০ বর্গ মাইল সেটাকে স্থায়ীভাবে জলের নীচে রাখবার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে। বিশেষজ্ঞদের কথা হল জল চুকে দাক Embankment জল বের করতো তাও দাও Sliuce gate ঐ ভাবে যদি প্রত্যেকটি নদী এবং নালায় Embankment দিতে হয় তবে ভগবানের দেওয়া সমস্ত



মাটি Embankment-এ লেগে যাবে। আর Sluice gate গুলো হয়েছে এক একটা গ্রহণ। আমরা বিশেষজ্ঞ নই সত্যি, কিন্তু একটা অভিজ্ঞতা এবং একটা সাধারণজ্ঞান ঐ জায়গায় থাকতে থাকতে গড়ে উঠেছে। অন্য ভাবে পরিকল্পনা নিলে সাফল্য হতো এটা আমার ধারণা।

মাননীয় সহকারী অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, কাছাড় জিলাব বিশেষ করে লংগাই এবং শিঙা নদীর Embankment-র পরিকল্পনা মানুষের কোন উপকারে আসেনি, মানুষের বাড়ী ঘর বা ফসলকে বন্যার হাত থেকে রক্ষা করতে পারেনি বরং নদীর গর্ভে ফেলে দিয়ে ১ হাজার পরিবারকে উদ্বাস্ত করবার একটা পরিকল্পনা নেওয়া হয়েছে।

যদিও বিগত বৎসর বরাক, কাটাখাল, শিঙা এবং লংগাই নদীর বন্যায় কাছাড় জেলার খাদ্য শস্য উৎপাদন বেশ ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত হয়েছে তথাপি কাছাড়ের কৃষকদেরে ধন্যবাদ দিতে হয়। প্রতিকূল আবহাওয়ার বিরুদ্ধে লড়েও তারা যে ফসল উৎপাদন করেছিলেন নিজের জেলার অভাব মিটিয়ে আসাম উপত্যকার ঘাটতি অঞ্চলেও আমরা খাদ্য সরবরাহ করতে পারতাম। কিন্তু সরকারের মনোযোগের ত্রুটি ত্রুটি ত্রুটি আজ কাছাড় জেলায় একটা কৃত্রিম খাদ্য সংকট সৃষ্টি করেছে।

বন্যায় এবং অর্থনৈতিক সংকটে বিপর্যাস্ত কৃষক যখন কৃষিকার্যের মূলধনের জন্য মহাজনের কাছ থেকে টাকা এনেছিল, সে টাকা পরিশোধের জন্য মরশুমের সময় ৮।১০ টাকা মণ দরে সমস্ত ফসল তারা ঋণের দায়ে মহাজনের হাতে তুলে দিতে বাধ্য হয়। ধান এ ভাবে মজুতদারদের হাতে চলে যাচ্ছে দেখে কাছাড় জেলা কৃষক সভা কাছাড়ের Deputy Commissioner-এর কাছে সরকার থেকে ধান কিনবার জন্য বলেছিলেন। করিমগঞ্জের সর্বদলীয় দুর্ভিক্ষ এবং দ্রব্য মূল্য বৃদ্ধি প্রতিরোধ কমিটি Subdivisional Officer-এর কাছে ডেপুটেশন দিয়েছিলেন যাতে সরকার নিজে ধান কিনে রাখেন। এই সমস্ত মনোফা শিকারীরা ধান কিনে মজুত করে রাখে আর সুবিধামত পাকিস্তানে চালান দেয়। আর বর্ষাকালে চাউলের দর হয়ে যায় ৩০। এটাই ছিল আমাদের অভিজ্ঞতা। এ অবস্থা থেকে রক্ষা করবার জন্য আমরা সরকারের কাছে আবেদন জানাই। সরকার বরং দেখা যায় সাধারণ মানুষের স্বার্থের কথা বিচার না করে ঐ সমস্ত মনোফা শিকারীদের আর হোজাই অঞ্চলের মাড়োয়ারী মিল মালিকদের ১ লক্ষ ৬০ হাজার মণ ধান কাছাড়ের বাহিরে চালান দেবার পারমিট দিয়েছিলেন। কারণ আমরা জানি ঐ সমস্ত মাড়োয়ারী একচেটিয়া ব্যবসায়ীরা সাহায্য না করলে আমাদের অনেক কংগ্রেসী বন্ধু নির্বাচন বৈতরনী পার হতে পারতেন না। কাছাড়ের একজন কংগ্রেসী এম, এল, এ-র শুধু নমিনেশন পেপারের Proposer ছিলেন বলে হাইলাকান্দির মনোরঞ্জন সাহা নামে একজন অ-ব্যবসায়ীকে ২,০০০ মণ ধান চালান দেবার পারমিট দেওয়া হয়েছে। এই রকম আরো বহু ঘটনা আছে। চাউলের দর ছিল ২০।২২। পারমিট ইস্যু করার সংগে সংগে ২৭।২৮ টাকাতো দর উঠে গেল। অবস্থা দেখে মাননীয় সরবরাহ মন্ত্রীর নিকট তার করলাম ধান চালান বন্ধ করবার জন্য। আমার তারের জবাব মাননীয় মন্ত্রী দেননি। কিন্তু অবস্থা খারাপের দিকে যাচ্ছিল বলে আমার কংগ্রেসী বন্ধু সদস্য শ্রীরামপ্রসাদ চৌবে একটা তার মাননীয় সরবরাহ মন্ত্রীর কাছে করেছিলেন, তিনি জবাব পেয়েছেন,—

“খবরে দেখা যায় আপনার অঞ্চলে ধানের তুলনায় দর কম। ধৈর্য্য হারাবেন না, মানুষকে আশ্বস্ত করবেন।”

[ ১৫ই জুনের “শ্রমিক” পত্রিকা থেকে উদ্ধৃত ]

সত্যের এই পরিমাণ বিকৃতি একজন মন্ত্রীর কাছ থেকে আশা করি নাই।



গত সপ্তাহে আমি পাথারকান্দি গিয়েছিলাম। দেখে এসেছি চাউলের দর ৩০।৩১। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী তাদের কি দিয়ে আশ্বস্ত করবেন, যখন ঐ দরে চাউল কিনতে না পেরে বহু মধ্যবিত্ত কৰ্মচারী এবং কৃষক আজ আধ পেটা খেতে পারছে না। মানুষের ক্ষুধা আর দারিদ্র নিয়ে বিদ্রূপ করবেন না। সস্তা চাউলের দোকান খুলে অবিলম্বে মানুষকে সাহায্য করবার ব্যবস্থা করুন। গত বৎসর দর আরো কম ছিল, কিন্তু পাথারকান্দি, রাতাবাড়ি ও করিমগঞ্জের অন্যান্য স্থানে সস্তা চাউলের দোকান খোলা হয়ে ছিল কিন্তু এবৎসর তারও ব্যবস্থা নেই।

এই দু'ভিক্টর মুখে দাঁড়িয়ে কৃষক তার ঘরে যে বীজ ধান ছিল বহু পূর্বে সে খেয়ে নিয়েছে। হালের গরু বিক্রী করে খাবার কিনেছে, আজ ফসল ফলাবে কি দিয়ে? তাই বহু কৃষক বীজ ধান ও গরুর টাকার জন্য সরকারের কাছে দরখাস্ত দিয়েছে। আমি গতকাল করিমগঞ্জ কৃষক সভার সেক্রেটারীর কাছ থেকে একটা টেলিগ্রাম পাই। কৃষকদের টাকা দেবার জন্য যাতে আমি সরকারের কাছে অনুরোধ করি।

আসামের শস্য ভাণ্ডার হোজাই থেকে যে কৃষক প্রতিনিধি দল মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের সংগে দেখা করেছেন তাদের দু'এক জনের সংগে আমার আলাপ হয়েছে। সেখানেও খাদ্যবস্থা আজ চরমে উঠেছে। কি খেয়ে কৃষকরা আজ ফসল ফলাবে? বর্তমানের কোন উপায় নেই—ভবিষ্যতের পথও অন্ধকার। আজ সরকারের উচিত ঐ সমস্ত কৃষকদের রক্ষা করা। ওরাইতো সুদিনে প্রচুর ফসল ফলিয়ে আসামের খাদ্য ভাণ্ডারকে পূর্ণ করে তুলবে। সরকার হয়তো বলবেন সমস্ত কৃষককে যদি হালের গরু আর বীজ ধান দিতে হয় তবে কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা লাগবে। লাগুক। যদি আজ ওরা ফসল ফলাতে না পারে তবে বিদেশ থেকে ফসল আনতে ৪।৫ গুণ বেশী বিদেশী মুদ্রা আমাদের চলে যাবে। হোজাই কৃষকদের খোদা বৃষ্টি দেননি বলে বিদ্রূপ করা চলে কিন্তু ফসল তো ফলাবে ওরাই—ভদ্রলোকেরা তো নয়। তাই সরকারের কাছে আবেদন যে সমস্ত অঞ্চলে দর অস্বাভাবিক ভদ্রলোকেরা তো নয়। তাই সরকারের কাছে আবেদন যে সমস্ত অঞ্চলে দর অস্বাভাবিক বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে কাল বিলম্ব না করে সেখানে সস্তা দরের দোকান খুলুন। কৃষকদের বীজ ধান ও গরুর টাকা দিয়ে ফসল ফলাবার অবস্থা সৃষ্টি করুন—দেখবেন আবার প্রাচুর্যে ভরে উঠবে সূজলা সূফলা এই সোণার আসাম।

**Shri KHAGENDRA NATH NATH (Goalpara):** মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজি এই সদনত হোঁরা খাদ্য সমস্যার আলোচনাত অংশ গ্রহণ কৰিবলৈ মোকোঁ অলপ স্ববিধা দিয়ার কাৰণে মই আপোনাক মোৰ আন্তৰিক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰিছোঁ।

মহোদয়, আজি ইমান বছৰে অসমত আমি কেবল সমস্যাবেই সন্মুখীন হৈ আহিছোঁ আজি কত বছৰৰ পৰা আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত এই খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ উদ্ভব হৈয়েই আছে। আমি দেখিছোঁ যে ই আমাৰ গতানুগতিক সমস্যা হৈ পৰিছে। কিন্তু তাৰ প্রকৃত সমাধানৰ কিবা ব্যবস্থা লোৱা হৈছে নে নাই নোৰ সন্দেহ আছে। ভাত-কাপোৰৰ সমস্যা আটাইতকৈ ডাঙৰ সমস্যা। এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে ৰাজ্যৰ কোনো উন্নতি হব নোৱাৰে।

এই সমস্যাৰ মাজতো মই এটা কথা লক্ষ্য কৰিছোঁ যে কিছুমানে সন্দৰ্ভকৈ খাই আছে আৰু কিছুমানে দুবেলাৰ ঠাইত এবোলা খাইছে, কিছুমানে অৰ্দ্ধাহাৰে অনাহাৰে আছে। যাৰ পেটত ভোক আছে, সি পেটৰ ভোক লৈ উন্নয়নৰ কামত আগবাঢ়িব বুলি কোনে বিশ্বাস কৰিব পাৰে? আমাৰ দেশ স্বাধীন হোৱাৰ লগে লগে ৰাইজে ভাবিছিল যে আমাৰ দুখৰ দিন গল, আমাৰ ভাত কাপোৰৰ সমস্যাৰ ওৰ পৰিল। এতিয়া আমি চাব লাগিব আমি এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হৈছোঁ নে?



১৯৪০ চনত যেতিয়া কলিকতাত চুৰাবদ্দিৰ মুসলীম লীগ মন্ত্ৰী সভা গঠন হৈছিল চৰকাৰী হিসাব মতে তেতিয়া ভালেমান মানুহে ভাত-কাপোৰৰ অভাৱত অনাহাৰে অৰ্দ্ধাহাৰে শুকাই শুকাই ভালেমান মৰি গৈছিল সেই সময়ত স্বত্ৰসিদ্ধ ভাৰত ত্যাগ কৰা হোৱা আন্দোলনৰ অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰি আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেছৰ কৰ্মী আৰু নেতা সকল যেতিয়া জেললৈ গৈছিল তেতিয়া কৈছিল যে বিদেশী শাসনৰ হাতৰ পৰা যেতিয়া শাসন ভাৰ আমাৰ হাতলৈ আহিব তেতিয়া আমি পোণ প্ৰথমে দেশৰ দৰিদ্ৰতাৰ সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিম। আজি স্বাধীনতাৰ পিচত সেই লোকসকলেই শাসন ভাৰ গ্ৰহণ কৰাৰ পিচতো সেই ভাত-কাপোৰৰ সমস্যাই আজি দেশক বিপন্ন কৰাটো জানো লাজৰ কথা নহয়? (বিবোধী দলৰ হাততালি) মোৰ প্ৰশ্ন হ'ল আজিও কিয় ভাত কাপোৰৰ সমস্যা সমাধান হোৱা নাই।

আমাৰ গোৱালপাৰাৰ বিশিষ্ট কংগ্ৰেছ কৰ্মী এজনৰ পৰাও মই সেই একে কথা কৈছোঁ। তেখেতে এই স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলনত যোগ দি কেইয়াবাৰো জেললৈ গৈছে। তেখেতে মোৰ ঘৰলৈ যোৱাত চাহ দিলো, ভাত খাবলৈ কলো কিন্তু তেখেতে ভাত নাখাই বৰ দুখেৰে কলে যে আমি কেনেধৰণৰ স্বৰাজ পালো। স্বাধীনতাৰ পূৰ্বে মোৰ যি অবস্থা আছিল সেই অবস্থাৰ মাজতো এনে ভাত-কাপোৰৰ অভাৱ হোৱা নাছিল। লৰা-ছোৱালীয়ে দুবেলা দুমুঠি খাই চলিব পাৰিছিল। এতিয়া স্বৰাজৰ পিচত দুবেলা দুমুঠি ভাতো নোপোৱা অৱস্থা হৈছে। মই শুনি আচৰিত হৈছোঁ তেখেতে কলে যে ঘৰত লৰা-ছোৱালীয়ে খাবলৈ পোৱা নাই আৰু মই ইয়াতে খালে কি হব। স্বৰাজৰ এয়েই নেকি ফলাফল?

মই চৰকাৰক সোধো যে এই ভাত কাপোৰৰ সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰে কি কাৰ্য্যকৰী ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে?

চৰকাৰে প্ৰথম পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনা, তাৰ পিচত দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনা এনেদৰে পৰিকল্পনাৰ পিচত পৰিকল্পনা লৈয়ে আছে। কিন্তু আমি দেখিছোঁ, ধনী শ্ৰেণী ধনী হৈ গৈছে আৰু দুখীয়া সকল দিনে দিনে দুখীয়া হৈ আছে। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে ১০ লাখ টকাৰে গুৱাহাটীত পাব্লিক লাইব্ৰেৰী গঢ়িব লাগিছে, আৰু বহুতো ঠাইত লাখ লাখ টকাৰে বिल्ডিং তৈয়াৰ কৰিব ধৰিছে,—কিন্তু সেইবোৰ বिल्ডিঙৰ নিচেই ওচৰে-পাজৰে হয়তো বহুনো দুখীয়া মানুহে লৰা-ছোৱালীৰে সৈতে অৰ্দ্ধাহাৰে, অনাহাৰে থাকিব লগাত পৰিছে সেই কাৰণে এনে এটা পদ্ধতি মই কেতিয়াও সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰোঁ।

মই চৰকাৰক কও যে আমাৰ প্ৰধান ভাত-কাপোৰৰ সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব পাৰেনে নোৱাৰে?

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Nath will continue his speech when the House meets again.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was the nadjourned till 10 A.M. on Monday the 1st July, 1957.

SHILLONG :

The 23rd May, 1958.  
A.G.P. (L.A.) No.315/57—220—27-5-58.

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