

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

No. 21

The 5th July, 1957



सत्यमेव जयते

1958

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS
SHILLONG

Price 10 annas.

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 1-30 P.M. on Friday, the 5th July 1957.

PRESENT

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

Regarding the order of Questions to be taken up by the House

Mr. SPEAKER: Short Notice Questions. Yes, Shri Dandeswar Hazarika.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): (rising to speak).

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): On a point of order, Sir, this Short Notice question will come after the starred questions according to the rules.

Mr. SPEAKER: I see. But the other day the hon. Member raised this point when I put the short Notice Question towards the end. Then the hon. Member said that the question should have been put earlier.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: (Gauhati) Yes, I said so because on that day the Short Notice Question was allowed only after the unstarred questions. But according to the rule, short notice questions come after the starred questions, but before the unstarred questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, here according to the rules, "All questions admitted shall be answered on the floor of the House. Questions shall be taken up in the following order:—

- (i) Short notice questions.
- (ii) Ordinary starred questions.
- (iii) Ordinary Unstarred questions.

This is according to Appendix C of Regulations made by the Hon'ble Speaker under the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules. Regulations were made not by the present Speaker but by the previous Speaker.

All right, the hon. Member can now put this Short Notice Question.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Location of Oil Refinery

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) asked :

3. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is any basis for the report appearing in the Assam Tribune of 3rd July to the effect that after Prime Minister's return a high level Conference will take place between the Sub-Committee for Oil of the Central Cabinet and Assam Representatives ?

(b) If so, what ?

(c) What is the communication ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

3. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—I have received a communication, dated 27th June, from a Union Cabinet Minister to the effect that representatives of Assam will be given full opportunity after the return of the Prime Minister to discuss the matter with the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Oil and also with the Expert Committee.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state if he had written any letter to the Prime Minister, regarding this matter, and if so, has he received any reply from the Prime Minister.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, I did not write any letter but just on the eve of his going out on the continental tour, I sent to him a wireless message, and the correspondences between him and myself are of confidential nature which, in public interest, may not be disclosed.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I do not want the full contents, but my question is whether any communication has been received?

Shri BISHNU RAM MEDHI: I received various communications from the Prime Minister, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is obvious, when a letter was written, a reply is expected to have been received.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: But has it actually been received?

Shri JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): May I know, Sir, whether any message from the Prime Minister has been received with regard to the Oil Refinery?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has already been replied.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar): May I know, Sir, who is the Central Minister who wrote to the Assam Government?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): I think the name may not be disclosed in public interest.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is for the Chief Minister to decide whether it is in the public interest or not to disclose the name, but in view of the fact that the Chief Minister has received a communication "from a Union Cabinet Minister", the question of giving out the name will not be irrelevant here.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI : Sir, will the Government of Assam be represented there?

Mr. SPEAKER: That has been stated, "representatives of Assam will be given full opportunity after the return of the Prime Minister to discuss the matter with the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Oil *****".

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding): Who will represent Assam's case, Sir ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): That will depend on the person or persons who will be selected by the Assam Government to represent Assam.

Mr. SPEAKER: Evidently representatives of Assam means the representatives of the Assam Government.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Prime Minister had sent a reply stating, "Our previous decision stands."

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, we have not received any communication to that effect, but having seen such a news appearing in the newspapers, we have written to the Government of India enquiring if such a communication has been received by them.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Influenza epidemic in Assam

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) asked :

*77. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of Influenza epidemic in Assam ?
- (b) If so, the total number of attacks and deaths upto the week ending the 15th June, 1957 ?
- (c) Are Government aware that about 50 % of the M. L. As have fallen victims of the epidemic and some of them have left for home being afraid of such attacks ?
- (d) What measures have since been taken by Government for prevention of the disease ?

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Medical) replied :

77. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Number of attacks—26,922.

Number of deaths—3. (Reported by the Chief Medical Officer, Assam Oil Company, Digboi).

(c)—Yes, a good number of M. L. A's. have had flu attack. The Government are not aware of some M. L. As. having left Shillong out of fear.

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

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): How many special centres have been started in Shillong ?

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS : I am sorry, Sir, I cannot reply off hand. Because the centres are being increased in certain places with a view to meet the requirements. Here in Shillong we have got 13 centres.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. Member requires only that information from the Government.

Srimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal): এই “Flu” বোগত যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক চাহ বনুৱাও যে আক্ৰান্ত হৈছে—এই কথা চৰকাৰে জানেনে ?

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS : ইয়াৰ খবৰ চৰকাৰে নাজানে।

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): It was stated that the number of deaths was 3 as reported by the Medical Officer, Digboi ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): That is the report from the Medical Officer, Assam Oil Company, Digboi, but that remains to be verified by our department.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Whether any instruction was issued by the Government to the tea garden authorities to take preventive measures against the attack of 'flu ?

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Medical): Instructions have been issued to the District Medical Officers. As such these instructions would also reach the tea garden areas falling within the districts.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Palashbari): Is there any preventive measure ?

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS : There is no specific preventive remedy till now.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : My question was that if so, what was the total number of attacks and deaths upto the week ending the 15th June 1957 throughout the whole State ? I want the figure for the whole State and not of Digboi alone.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS : The figure is for the whole State.

Mr. SPEAKER: They have no other figure except of Digboi.

Srimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal): চাৰ, এই কথা চৰকাৰে জানেনে যে চাহ বাগিছাৰ বহুত বনুৱাই কোম্পানীৰ ডাক্তৰখানাৰ ডাক্তৰৰ ওচৰলৈ গলে তাৰ ডাক্তৰে কয়, “চৰ্দ্দিৰ দৰৱ নাই। গতিকে বনুৱাই কাম কৰিব লাগে।”

Dr GHANASHYAM DAS (Depury Minister, Medical): We have no information because that is not directly under our control.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta): Is there any difference between this type of influenza we have had recently and the influenza which we generally have ?

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS: We have received expert opinion that this is nothing but the Indian type of Influenza and it is of mild type.

Mr. SPEAKER: Though it is a small matter, I would like to draw the attention of the Deputy Minister to it. He has used in his reply the word 'flu'. It is not customary to use colloquialism in this House, particularly in reply of the Hon'ble Ministers. So influenza should not be referred to as 'flu'. That is a small matter but it is a question of principle.

Re: Erection of Fruit Preservation Factory and a Mechanical Workshop at Silchar

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) asked :

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

- (a) Who gave orders for erection of Fruit Preservation Factory just outside the Silchar Girls' H. E. School and a Mechanical Workshop just outside the Narshing H. E. School at Silchar ?
- (b) What consideration led the Government to select these sites in the very heart of the office and school area of this already congested town instead of at some outlying part of the town ?
- (c) With regard to question (a) above, who was responsible for violating the Government instruction to the Municipality not to allow erection of factories within the town area ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to discontinue this practice of erecting factories and workshops within Municipal area without consulting the Municipal Boards ?

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

78. (a)—The sites were selected by the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar in consultation with the P. E. O., Cachar (C. P. Department) and the District Agricultural Officer, Cachar.

(b)—The following factors were taken into consideration while selecting the sites—

(i) These were the only suitable Government lands available for the purpose.

(ii) The factory and the workshop contained assets of considerable value which were not easily portable. In order to avoid the risk of loss of human lives as well as of Government property and of the disruption of works in the event of floods, it was necessary to select such sites as were above flood level. These two were the only available sites above flood level and were accordingly selected.

(iii) Both the factory and the workshop need electrical energy for their running which is not available in any outlying area.

(iv) The requirement of water of the Fruit Preservation Factory is to be obtained from the Municipality.

(v) The outlying areas of the Silchar town are easily and frequently flooded and no khas lands were available there. Electricity and pure water supply are also not available in any outlying area.

(c)—Neither the Fruit Preservation Factory nor the Engineering Workshop falls under the category of “factory” under the Factories Act, because, the number of workers in either of them is less than the minimum number of workers required to attract the application of the Factories Act.

(d)—In view of (c) above, does not arise.

†Shri Hareswar Das (Minister, Revenue) replied to the Questions in absence of M. Moinul Haque Chaudhury (Minister, Agriculture).

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Was there no other site within the Silchar Municipality which could be filled by earth and brought above flood level ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): There may be, Sir, but these sites were considered most suitable.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Do Government propose to remove the Girls' High School and the Narshing High School from the places where they are at present ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: There is no such proposal.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Do not Government think that the Workshop with so much of noise disturbs the students both of the Boys' and Girls' High Schools ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: It does not, because the Workshop and the Factory work only after school hours. During school hours they do not work at all.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Do not Government consider this to be a waste ?

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): Does the Hon'ble Minister speak from his experience and knowledge that water is supplied by the Municipality and electricity is supplied by the Electric Company ? I know from my own knowledge.....(*Loud laughter*).

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, Order.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: I have no personal knowledge at all. Even this reply I am giving on behalf of my Friend, who is absent. (*Laughter*).

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Was the Municipality consulted before the selection of these sites ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: It appears before selection the Municipality was not consulted. Afterwards a definite order has been issued that in future the Municipality should be consulted.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Whether the Silchar Municipality objected to this or not ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): They did not before the factory was started.

Re: Centre for treatment of opium addicts at Chabua in Dibrugarh Subdivision

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

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

(a) Whether any centre for treatment of opium addicts was opened at Chabua in Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

(b) If so, how long this treatment centre functioned ?

(c) What is the expenditure incurred by the Government during that period for the upkeep and treatment in that centre ?

(d) What is that number of opium addicts who received treatment in this centre during the period the centre was under operation ?

(e) Whether the centre is still functioning ?

(f) If not, why ?

Shri CHATRA SINGH TERON (Minister, Excise) replied :

79. (a)—Yes.

(b)—From 28th February 1956 to 18th March 1956.

(c)—A total amount of Rs.4,483 was spent for the treatment of opium addicts including the cost of beddings, utensil, medical equipment, furniture and pay, etc., of the staff in that centre.

(d)—Six.

(e) & (f)—The centre could not function from 19th March 1956 for want of a suitable doctor. Arrangement has since been made for a doctor and the centre will start functioning soon.

Shri DEBENDRANATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Do Government know that most of these six addicts did not attend the Centre regularly and sometime after they reverted to the old habit ?

Shri CHATRA SING TERON (Minister, Excise): Government have no information.

Shri DEBENDRANATH HAZARIKA: Do Government know that the value of the assets in the Centre for which more than four thousand rupees were spent is almost nil at present ?

Mr. SPEAKER: The reply was: "A total amount of Rs.4,483 was spent for the treatment of opium addicts including the cost of beddings, utensils, medical equipment, etc....." He has not said this has constituted the asset.

Shri DEBENDRANATH HAZARIKA: Do Government know that the number of opium addicts in that area is on the increase and smugglers are becoming more powerful now-a-days ?

Shri CHATRA SING TERON: Government want notice of this question.

Re : Catching of Elephants in Kulshi Range

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : asked.

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

(a) Whether four seats for catching Elephants (Gajali Shikar) were lately thrown open in Kulshi Range in South Bank of Kamrup recently through Gazette notification ?

(b) If so, whether any tender was invited ?

(c) Who were the tenderers ?

(d) Who have been allotted the seats ?

(e) Whether the number of seats increased later ?

(f) On what principle the seats were allotted ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Forests) replied :

80 (a)—Four seats for Gajali Shikar were advertised by the D. C., Kamrup, locally but not through the Gazette.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—1. Shri Arabinda Ch. Das.

2. „ Debendra Nath Thakuria.

3. „ Bibhu Kanta Choudhury.

4. „ Hem Ch. Choudhury.

5. „ Bangshidhar Thakuria.

6. „ Kamala Kanta Goswami.

7. „ Biren Ram Phukan.

(d)—1. Shri Arabinda Ch. Das.

2. „ Debendra Nath Thakuria.

3. „ Bibhu Kanta Choudhury.

4. „ Hem Chandra Choudhury.

5. „ Kamala Kanta Goswami.

6. „ Biren Ram Phukan.

7. „ Gajendra Ch. Bora.

8. „ Mahendra Ch. Rava.

9. „ Basudev Das.

(e)—Yes, from 4 seats to 9.

(f)—Five seats were allotted on the recommendation of the D. C. Four seats were allotted by Government considering it expedient to increase the number of seats after the issue of tender notice by the D. C. to nine taking into account the vastness of the hunting area and the seriousness of the crop damages. For the increased seats, Government chose all persons from among those who had applied to Government for seats in their individual capacity including a tribal applicant considering that tribal people also should be given representation.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Sir, will the Minister state whether the non-publication of the first notification in the Gazette was not irregular ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Forest) : So far as Gajali Shikar is concerned, Sir, it is sufficient to advertise locally by the Deputy Commissioner and regarding other Shikars, that is, Mela Shikar and Kheda Shikar, they are advertised through the Gazette.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Is the Minister aware whether the notification was widely circulated ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: It must have been widely circulated by the Deputy Commissioner specially in the southern part of the Brahmaputra river.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Will the Minister please state in which places the notification was hung up ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I cannot say off-hand. If the hon. Member insists, I may have the information from the proper source.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Is it a fact, Sir, that one Shri B. Talukdar was left out in the selection because he has a different party affiliation ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : That is not a fact, Sir.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Palashbari) : May I know, Sir, how many tenders were received within the specified time ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Forest) : Seven tenders.

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Palashbari) : Sir, is it a fact that some of the tenderers did not deposit the security money also ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I want notice of this question, Sir.

Re : Coins of Mattak King

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

*81. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that some old coins of Mattak King Shri Shri Sarbanada Singha with others have been unearthed near Tengapani Tea Estate in Dibrugarh Subdivision during the last few months ?

(b) If so, what were the writings on the coins of the Mattak King and where they are preserved now ?

(c) Whether the important tanks excavated by the Mattak King in Tinsukia area are preserved by the State Government with a brief history or indication ?

(d) Whether any representation was received by the Government during the last four years or so urging upon by the public to preserve the historic place of Mattak Kings which is known as "Rajnagar" in Tinsukia in accordance with Article 49 of the Constitution of India ?

(e) If so, what action has been taken so far.

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

81. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Not known to Government as yet. Necessary arrangement is being made for transfer of the coins from the custody of the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, to the Assam State Museum.

(c)—No.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—No action has been taken in respect of Rajnagar in Tinsukia area as the question of setting up a State Department of Archaeology to look after Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and remains not declared by Parliament to be of national importance, is under consideration of Government.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Sir, has our Government recommended to the Central Government for declaring those places as of historical importance, by the Indian Parliament ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) : No, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Do Government know that the descendants of Mattak kings are still enjoying political pension from the Central Government ?

Mr. SPEAKER : How can this question arise ?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Because, Sir, historically this relates to Mattak kings.

Mr. SPEAKER : The main question relates to Archaeological remains and not to human remains (*laughter*).

Re: Cattle Epidemic in Dibrugarh Subdivision

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA asked :

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

(a) Whether report was received by Government from Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Tinsukia, in

the month of May last that there was no contagious disease or cattle epidemic except minor ailment in Kakapathar area of Saikhowa Mouza in Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that only at 10 different villages of the aforesaid area 201 cows and 111 buffaloes died of the cattle disease during the period under reference ?

(c) Whether Government are aware of the fact that there are instances that the death roll of cows and buffaloes in a family rose upto 7 and 4 respectively ?

(d) What number of deaths of cattle is required for an area or a village to be declared as cattle epidemic area ?

(e) Whether the Government will make a fresh enquiry to ascertain the facts that the deaths of cattle in the following villages were as shown below in Saikhowa Mouza in Saikhowa Constituency:—

Name of villages		Death of cows	Death of buffaloes	Total
Sorumessai	... ..	30	16	46
Kachijan	... ..	27	14	41
Tanganagaon	... ..	37	18	55
Hahkhathi	.. ..	86	19	105

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

82. (a) to (e)—Information is being collected.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) :
Sir, how long will it take to get reply to this question and whether we will get it in the next session of the Assembly without giving fresh notice ?

† The answer was given by the Revenue Minister in the absence of M. Moinul Hoque Chaudhuri, Minister, Veterinery.

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the rules and procedure according to which questions submitted for this session cannot be left over to the next session.

Re: Erosion caused by the River Burhidihing in Tirap Transferred Area and Makum Mauza of Lakhimpur District

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi) asked :

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

(a) Whether Government are aware about the great erosion caused by the River Burhidihing at Inthem, Ketetang, Barphakial and Makum Killah in Tirap Transferred Area and Makum Mauza of Lakhimpur District ?

(b) Whether Government propose to take necessary steps to stop erosion and save these villages from distress ?

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

83. (a)—Government have no information. A report is being called for from Executive Engineer concerned.

(b)—Does not arise now.

(Starred Question No. 84 standing in the name of Shri Molia Tati was not put and answered as the questioner was absent).

Re: Paddy produced in and imported to Assam

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

*85. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

(a) What was the total quantity of paddy produced in the State for the year ending in March 1957 ?

- (b) What is the total annual requirement of the State ?
- (c) What is the amount imported since January, 1957 to date ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Supply) replied :

85. (a)—Approximately 27,31,502 tons paddy. (But, allowance at the rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent may also be made for seeds, shrinkage, wastages, etc.)

(b)—Approximately 24,67,200 tons paddy.

(c) (i)—15,591 tons rice (up to 13th June 1957) moved to Assam on Central Government account for distribution through Fair Price Shops.

(ii)—The accurate figures in respect of imports of rice/paddy into Assam on purely private trade account cannot be furnished. Reports have been called for from the carriers who are also unable to furnish the same due to figures being not readily available.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** Is it a fact, Sir, that there is no deficit so far as paddy is concerned within the State ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Considering the total production, as stated 3 days back, if I remember aright, and the total population perhaps there is some shortage and that shortage is to be made up with Government of India supply as well as supply from outside the State on private trade account.

***Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) :** What is the basis of calculation of those figures ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Arithmectic, of course (laughter).

***Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) :** Which Department submits figures, Sir, regarding production of paddy ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** Agriculture Department with the help of the Statistics Department of the Government of Assam.

Re: Copyists and Typists of Civil Courts

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) asked :

*86. Will the Minister-in-charge of Judicial be pleased to state—

- (a) On what condition and remuneration the Copyists and Typists in Civil Courts are employed ?
- (b) Whether the Copyists and Typists are allowed the benefit of Provident Fund ?
- (c) If so, what are the term and condition and rate at which the Copyists and the Typists are to contribute ?
- (d) Whether Government contribute to the said Provident Fund ? If so, at what rate ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the Copyists and the Typists are not allowed any extra remuneration for copying and typing in urgent cases ?
- (f) Whether Government will consider the cases of all Copyists and the Typists to absorb them in regular service so that they may be able to enjoy the benefit of Government service like other clerks in the Deputy Commissioner's Office in the districts including gratuity and retirement ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Judicial) replied :

86. (a)—According to Civil Rules and Orders of the High Court (Vol. I) no Copyists and Typists other than a licensed one can be employed as such, and they can be retained up to the age of 60 years. At the time of appointment preference is shown to Typists proficient both in English and Vernacular typing and providing their own machines. They are piece workers and paid at the rate of 16 Naye Paise ($2\frac{1}{2}$ annas) per folio.

(b)—The Copyists and Typists are not regular Government Servants and hence they are not allowed the benefit of either Provident Fund or Pension. They are however getting the benefit of Contributory Provident Fund which is more lucrative than pension.

(c)—There is no fixed rate of contribution. Under the Contributory Provident Fund Rules it is on the percentage basis of emoluments, the minimum and maximum contribution being between $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent and $15\frac{5}{8}$ per cent respectively (i.e., from 6 Naye Paise to 10 Naye Paise in the rupee).

(d)—Yes. Government make a half-yearly contribution to the account of each subscriber at the rate of 75 per cent of the subscription paid by the person concerned during the half year—any subscription paid in excess of $8\frac{1}{3}$ per cent of the subscribers' emoluments being disregarded for the purpose.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—The matter is under consideration of Government. However, for the purposes of dearness allowances they are treated as whole time Government servants.

Maulvi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : Is it a fact that the Copyists and Typists are not paid any extra remuneration, although urgent fees are realised from the clients for urgent work ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Judicial) : That might be so, Sir.

Maulvi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED : What is the nature of their employment ? Whether temporary or permanent.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : They are temporary, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Are they employed for a fixed period or there is no fixed period ? Are they employed casual or temporary ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : There is no fixed period, Sir.

Maulvi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) :
Whether Government is considering to make them permanent ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Judicial) :
That may be examined, Sir.

Amount of Tax realised under the Assam Taxation (on Goods carried by Road or Inland Waterways) Act

Maulavi MAHAMMAD IDRIS (Rupohihat) : asked :

*87. Will the Minister-in-charge of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the total amount of tax realised in the State under the Assam Taxation (on goods carried by Road and Inland Waterways) Act, 1954, since its enforcement ?
- (b) Out of this tax what is the total sum realised in district or subdivisionwise from Jute ?
- (c) Whether it was not the intention of Government to allocate a part of this tax in development of communication in the jute growing areas of the State as assured by the Minister at the time of passing this Legislation ?
- (d) If so, what amount has since been spent for the said purpose in each subdivision ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance)
replied :

		Rs.
87. (a)—In 1954-55	...	55,61,437
In 1955-56	...	1,84,47,248
In 1956-57	...	2,41,42,350 (Provisional).
Total	...	<u>4,81,51,035</u>

		Rs.
(b)—From Kamrup	...	3,89,168
Goalpara	...	23,56,158
Nowgong	...	12,49,261
Sibsagar	...	4,737
Darrang	...	4,73,583
Lakhimpur	...	13,896
Cachar	...	40,723

(c)—In the first instance Government revenue has to be credited into the Consolidated Fund of the State and expenditure required for specific purposes has to be provided for in the budget and passed by the Legislature. At the time of selection of schemes on development of communication, jute growing areas get full consideration. From the administrative point of view, it is not always possible to keep a *pro-rata* basis, in regard to collection of revenue and expenditure on a particular district or area.

(d)—Details of expenditure on specific projects have been called for from districts and are not available at present.

Maulvi MAHAMMAD IDRIS (Rupohihat) : Whether it is not the intention of the Government to spend a portion of the tax for the development of communication in the jute growing areas of the State ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) : Sir, the answer has clearly stated the position. I refer to the following sentences—“***At the time of selection of scheme on development of communication, jute growing areas get full consideration. From the administrative point of view, it is not always possible to keep a *pro-rata* basis, in regard to collection of revenue and expenditure on a particular district or area”. Sir, the intention of the Government is to provide communication in jute growing areas as also to other areas, both paddy and tea growing areas.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj North) : Has Government allotted any fund at the disposal of the Road Communication Board for construction of roads in the jute growing areas, just like petrol tax, etc ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH I am not aware, Sir.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Will the Minister-in-charge be pleased to consider this ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : This matter will be undoubtedly considered.

Maulavi MAHAMMED IDRIS : Whether Government has proposed to allot some money for the purpose of construction of roads in jute growing areas ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, Order.

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) : Whether Government propose to give some grant for construction of reserve tanks for the purpose of washing and cleaning jute ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) : Since the hon. Members are raising these points on the floor of the House, they will undoubtedly receive due consideration.

Maulavi MAHAMMAD IDRIS (Rupohihat) : Do Government propose to earmark certain sum of money.....

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH There is no scheme or proposal in the line suggested by the hon. Members for materialisation. But, since the hon. Members have raised these important points on the floor of the House, they will undoubtedly receive due consideration.

Number of Fair Price Shops in Tezpur Subdivision

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) asked :

*88. Will the Supply Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Fair Price Shops have now been started in Tezpur Subdivision ?
- (b) In which of the Mauzas they have been started ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that no quota of rice is allotted for Tezpur Subdivision ?
- (d) If so, why ?
- (e) Whether Government are aware of the demand for more Fair Price Shops in the Tezpur Subdivision ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Supply) replied :

88. (a)—Sixty-four shops. But only 25 shops are functioning with rice offered by local millers.

(b)—The Fair Price Shops have been started in the following Mouzas of Tezpur Subdivision—

Gohpur, Halem, Kolongpur, Brahmajan, Behali, Sakomota, Biswanath, Baghmara, Murhadoi, Barbhagia, Chilabandha, Balipara, Haleswar, Missamari, Borchola, Mahabhairab.

(c) & (d)—No. There is of course no Central Government Depot in Tezpur and the retailers of Fair Price Shops from Tezpur Subdivision are reluctant to bring Central Government rice from Tihu. A quota of 10,000 mds. of rice from Manipur has been allotted to Tezpur to be lifted through a selected wholesaler from September, 1956. But as there was no sufficient demand for Manipur rice at that time only about 6,000 mds. rice could be lifted for Tezpur by the wholesaler and distributed by appointed retailers through Fair Price Shops at Rs.18-8-0 per maund.

(e)—Yes. More Fair Price Shops will be opened as and when necessity arises.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Is it a fact that the dealers cannot lift their quotas because of transport difficulties ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) : Perhaps there might be some difficulties.

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALLA (Tezpur) : Is it a fact that there is no Central godown at Tezpur ?

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : Fair Price Shop सभी जगह खोली गयी है क्या ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : जी हाँ—खोली गई हैं ।

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : राज्य की कितनी जगहों में खोली गयी हैं ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, I gave these figures on the floor of the House already.

Capt. WILLIAMSON SANGMA [(Phulbari, (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)) : Sir, whether Government received representation from the Deputy Commissioner, Tura, to open fair price shops at Tura.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) :

Sir, a conference was held at Gauhati on the last Wednesday with the Deputy Commissioners, Subdivisional Officers, and senior Supply Officials, and the whole matter was thrashed out there. Accordingly Government have requested the Deputy Commissioners and the Subdivisional Officers to do what is needful regarding this matter in their respective district headquarters and subdivisional head-quarters. As a matter of fact the authority has been delegated to the Deputy Commissioners and the Subdivisional Officers to incur expenditure upto Rs. 2,000 by way of subsidy and other subvention without reference to Government. Reference may be made by them in such cases afterwards.

Capt. WILLIAMSON SANGMA [Phulbari, (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Will the Minister-in-charge be pleased to state regarding the quota allotted to Garo Hills ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: As a matter of fact, Sir, I have requested the Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills, to proceed to Shillong immediately so that we may discuss this matter in company of the hon. Members of the Garo Hills.

Mr. SPEAKER : I think, all these supplementaries are not in order. That this question relates to the opening of fair price shops, the Minister-in-charge has already replied to it.

Order, Order.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Sir, my reply to the question put by hon. Member remained unfinished. The Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills, also came to Gauhati. I requested him to come to Shillong, so that the question might be thoroughly discussed here in company of the hon. Members of Garo Hills. In this connection, I may submit, Sir, that the hon. Members of Garo Hills were absent from the House for two days. So, this important matter could not be discussed with them.

Capt. WILLIAMSON SANGMA Sir, Whether the Government is aware that there was no rice in Garo Hills which was supplied by the Government ?

****Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Supply):** The places, regarding which information has been received, were supplied with rice which was sent along with our officers and one gentlemen from Garo Hills for distribution. As no further information was received from other places, of Garo Hills, Government is not aware of it. Anyway, Government will surely send rice promptly on receipt of information.

****Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALLA (Tezpur) :** Are Government aware that rice supplied by the dealers is selling at a very high price, *i.e.*, Rs.24-8-0 per maund ?

****Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** The present price of rice at the rate of Rs.24 per maund is not considered high enough. If you take a few of the relative price of other essential commodities, as also the cost of production in the production centres, you will find that this Rs.24 is not a very high price.

Re: Subdivisional Officer at Karimganj

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) : asked :

*89. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) When Mr. R. K. Srivastava, Subdivisional Officer of Karimganj, was transferred from Karimganj Subdivision ?

(b) Who is in-charge of the Subdivision after his transfer ?

(c) Why a permanent Subdivisional Officer was not placed there so long ?

(d) Whether Government are aware of the importance of Karimganj as a Border Subdivision ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

89. (a)—Shri Srivastava made over charge to the Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner on 12th April, 1957.

(b)—The Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner, Shri Soneswar Kalita, has been in-charge of the Subdivision after the transfer of Shri Srivastava.

(c)—Shri T. S. Gill, I.A.S., Subdivisional Officer, Lungleh, was posted as Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj and the transfer was notified on 8th May 1957 but the order of transfer of Sri Gill had to be cancelled. In view of shortage of I. A. S. and senior A. C. S. Officers, it was not possible to send a Subdivisional Officer to Karimganj immediately, but in the meantime one senior A. C. S. Officer has been appointed as Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj.

(d)—Yes.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North)
Has the Government received serious allegations from the Bar Members as well as from the public of Karimganj against the Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner who is holding the charge of Karimganj Subdivision ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :
There are allegations and counter allegations also. A large number of people of Karimganj also supported the officer for his retention there.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Will Government enquire into these allegations ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI: Yes. All these reports will be enquired into, *i.e.*, in support of his retention, and against retention of him.

Shri RANENDRA MOHON DAS: Sir, some specific allegations were made against the officer, by me, the other day in the floor of the House.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI: Sir, I was not present at that time.

Shri RANENDRA MOHON DAS: Sir, the charges are in the hands of the Government. Will Government enquire into those charges ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI: Sir, the charges made in the House briefly by hon. Members are considered difficult to be enquired into.

Mr. SPEAKER : Regarding the charges made in this House, I would like to say that our rules are silent. So in future we have decided to follow the rules and procedure that are being followed in Lok Sabha, *i.e.*, whenever any charge is made against any officer or person, the hon. Member has to take the previous consent of the Speaker, provided the Speaker approved that it is in public interest and also due time and information be given to the Minister-in-charge for enquiry. Therefore, that was the practice in the past and we have now decided to follow the rules and procedure of Lok Sabha in future.

Shri RANENDRA MOHON DAS (Karimganj-North): No matter about my charges in this House. Did Government receive allegations from the Muktar's Bar and the public of Karimganj ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : I do not exactly remember. But I have received some allegations. As a matter of fact, I have already said that if any person takes the responsibility for making the allegations, the matter may be taken up for enquiring.

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order.

The Chief Minister did not know what has happened in this House. I have already ordered the portions to be expunged.

Shri RANENDRA MOHON DAS: My question is when certain allegations have been received I want a categorical answer whether the Government will make an enquiry or not ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI: I have already stated that if any body takes the responsibility, then the matter will be enquired into.

Shri RANENDRA MOHON DAS : I am taking the responsibility. Will the Chief Minister enquire into the matter ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order.

The Chief Minister has said if any body should take the responsibility then he will make an enquiry into the matter.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : If any body takes the responsibility and if the representation is made to me, I will certainly enquire into the matter.

Re: Storm at Majuli on the 29th April, 1957

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY (North-Lakhimpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)) : asked :

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

(a) What was the total number of families affected by the last storm of 29th April 1957, of the three Mouzas of Majuli ?

(b) How many of them were rendered homeless ?

(c) Total value of properties damaged by the storm ?

(d) Whether any relief has been given to the storm-affected people of Majuli ?

(e) If so, how many of them have been given relief ?

(f) If not, why not ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

90. (a)—Approximately 1,750 families.

(b)—116.

(c)—Approximately Rs.1,50,000.

(d)—A sum of Rs.8,000 as gratuitous relief has been sanctioned for the storm-affected people of Jorhat Subdivision including Majuli. Besides Rs.25,500 has been given as Agricultural seed loan and Rs.20,000 as Agricultural Cattle loan for the entire Subdivision.

The Deputy Commissioner has also been asked to submit proposal for rehabilitation loan for those families who need it for reconstruction of their houses.

(e)—The exact number of families who have received relief is not available, but gratuitous relief has been given mainly to the persons who have been rendered homeless.

(f)—Does not arise.

Re: Housing Loan at North Lakhimpur Subdivision**Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur)** asked:

*91. Will the Minister-in-charge of Housing be pleased to state how many people were provided with Housing loans at North Lakhimpur Subdivision in 1955-56 and 1956-57 with names?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Town and Country Planning) replied:

91.—Information has been called for but not yet received.

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal): মহোদয়, যিবিলাক কৰ্মচাৰীক House Building Loan দিয়া হৈছে, সেইবিলাকে ঘৰটো Loan ৰ টকাৰে সম্পূৰ্ণ কৰিব পৰা সুবিধা দিয়া হৈছেনে?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister): এই Loan বিলাক এটা নিৰ্দিষ্ট Scheme ৰ অধীনত দিয়া হয় আৰু ধৰি লোৱা হয় যে এই Loan ৰ ভিতৰতে ঘৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ হব।

Re: Loans to rice mills in 1953

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) asked:

*92. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether some rice mills were given loans by the Government in 1953?
- (b) Who were the recipients of the said loans and the amount received by each of them?
- (c) What was the rate of interest charged for the said loans?
- (d) Whether the said loans were paid after the Government had given up the procurement scheme?
- (e) Whether there was any condition to the effect that the loanees would have to supply rice to the Government and the public at a price fixed by the Government?
- (f) Whether the loans have since been repaid?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMA (Minister, Supply)
replied :

92. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Names of the recipients of loans and the amount received by each of them are indicated below—

	Rs.
1. Messrs Prahladrai Sitaram Rice Mills, Khetri ...	1,00,000
2. Messrs Bajranglal Agarwalla and another, Rangiya. ..	30,000
3. Messrs Poddar Rice Mill, Tihu	1,25,000
4. Messrs Bijoylaxmi Rice Mill, Rangiya ..	1,25,000
5. Messrs Nagarmall Gaurisankar Rice Mills, Gauhati. ...	70,000
6. Messrs K. C. Rice Mills, North Gauhati	60,000
7. Messrs. Annapurna Rice Mills, Gauhati	75,000
8. Messrs. Bhartiya Rice Mills, Nalbari	1,00,000
9. Messrs. K. D. Jalan Rice Mills, Pathsala	75,000
10. Messrs Sreemanta Rice Mills, (now Uma Rice Mills) Changsari.	50,000
11. Messrs Bhagwati Rice Mills, Pathsala	60,000
12. Messrs Sreemanta Rice Mills, Gauhati	1,00,000
13. Messrs New Rice Mills, Rolia	3,00,000
14. Messrs Netram Rice Mills, Kathiatali	1,25,000
15. Messrs H. Atia Rice Mills, Jamunamukh	35,000
16. Messrs Mangilal Tilokchand Rice Mills, Jamunamukh ..	1,50,000
17. Messrs Akbar Zaman Rice Mills, Jamunamukh ..	40,000
18. Messrs B. G. Rice Mills, Kampur	85,000
19. Messrs Annapurna Rice Mills, Hailakandi	10,000

(c) —Three per cent per annum.

(d)—Yes, in certain cases, the loans were paid after temporary stoppage of procurement.

(e)—According to the terms of the contracts, the loanees had to supply rice/paddy to Government at Government procurement prices.

(f)—One of the loanees has repaid the full amount and several other parties have made part payments. Steps have been taken to recover the loans from the defaulters as early as possible.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morangi) : May I know from Government whether there was any applicant from Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts, or whether there was any applicant from the other districts except Nowgong and Kamrup ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Supply) : Sir, the records show no such applicant.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Under what schemes these loans are issued ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, loans are issued to different mill owners to procure paddy. At that time there was control, the mill owners were granted advances to purchase paddy and deliver the same to Government at certain fixed rates. These rates differed in the different zones.

Shri BISWADEV SARMAH : Does the scheme still continue ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : No.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) : Was there no applicant from Cachar district ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : There is one. Messrs. Annapurna Rice Mill, Hailakandi.

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALLA - (Tezpur) : The Hon. Minister said that loans were granted and at the sametime he said advances.....

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister Supply): That may be terminological inexactitude. Advances were loans and loans were advances.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Within what period the loans were to be repaid ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Loans were to be repaid within the next harvesting year.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Why no action has been taken to realise the entire amount of the loans ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : Sir, we are beginning to take action.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Detection of Excise Cases by the Town Defence Party in Dibrugarh

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) asked :

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

- (a) If some excise cases were detected by the members of the Town Defence Party during the months of March and April, 1957, in Dibrugarh ?
- (b) If so, how many such cases ended with convictions of the offenders ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the number of cases of such detection had dwindled in the town of Dibrugarh after the disbanding of the Town Defence Party ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to form a Town Defence Party to help the Department in the detection and for the prevention of crimes ?

Shri CHATRA SING TERON (Minister, Excise) replied:

183. (a)—Three cases were detected by the voluntary Town Defence Party in March, 1957. No cases were detected by them in April, 1957.

(b)—One.

(c)—No.

(d)—There is no such proposal.

Kamalpur N. E. S. Block

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

184. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Projects be pleased to state—

(a) When the National Extension Service Block at Kamalpur will be opened?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Kamalpur National Extension Service Block was due to be opened in the financial year 1956-57?

(c) In view of the largeness of the area and backwardness of the locality whether Government will be pleased to consider to open two National Extension Service Blocks in Kamalpur Thana?

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Deputy Minister, Community Projects) replied:

184. (a)—Sometime before the end of the Second Five Year Plan period. The exact date cannot be stated now.

(b)—No.

(c)—This is not possible.

Proposal for opening of a Multi-purpose Community Project in the Abor Hills Transferred Area

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked:

185. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Development Projects be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is a proposal to open a Multi-purpose Community Project in the Abor Hills Transferred Area?

- (b) If so, when the project will be opened ?
- (c) What are the amounts to be spent in different heads ?
- (d) Where the headquarters of this project is proposed to be located ?

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Deputy Minister, Community Projects) replied :

185. (a)—Yes. A proposal to include the Abor Hills Transferred Area in a Multi-purpose Community Development Block is at present under consideration of Government.

(b)—Second October, 1957.

(c)—Twenty-four lakhs of rupees ; the break-up under different heads will be done in consultation with the Project Advisory Committee.

(d)—No decision has yet been taken regarding the headquarters of the proposed Block.

Heads of Departments who are also Secretaries to the Government of Assam

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) asked :

186. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Heads of Departments are also the Secretaries to the Government ?
- (b) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of days spent outside the headquarters station by such Heads of Departments who have combined to themselves the position of Secretaries to the Government in the years 1955-56, 1956-57 ?
- (c) How many such Heads of Departments spent more than twenty days on tours in each month during the aforesaid years ?
- (d) What are those Departments ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the Accountant General has raised objections to abnormal increase of T. A. in some of the Departments ?

- (f) Whether Government are aware that due to such long absence of the Heads of Departments from the headquarters station the office works suffer ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to put a stop to such touring ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

186. (a) to (g)—Information has been called for.

**Permit for Vehicular Transport in Cachar District and
Parking Arrangements for Public Vehicles in
Silchar Town**

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West) asked :

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

- (a) The number of various Vehicular Transport permits (Public Carriers, Stage Carriages, Taxies and Private Carriers, etc.) that was current on the 31st March, 1957, in the district of Cachar ?
- (b) The number of permits prevalent on 15th August, 1947 in the district of Cachar ?
- (c) Whether any enquiry was made or statistics taken to ascertain the suitability and economic utility for such increase in the number of permits ?
- (d) Whether any survey has been made about the earnings of the permit holders ?

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

- (a) What is the present arrangement for parking of Public Vehicles in Silchar Town ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to take immediate steps to provide suitable stands for Public Vehicles in Silchar Town ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that penalties are frequently imposed for parking the vehicles outside the stand although suitable parking arrangements have not been made as yet ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) replied :

187. (a) to (d) and 188. (a) to (c)—Information has been called for but not yet received.

Transport Charges of Potatoes

Shri BROJO MOHON ROY (Shillong) asked :

189. (a) Is the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture aware that the potato, i. e., potato produced in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District and exported to Calcutta and other places cannot compete with potato exported from other States due mainly to its high price created by the high transport charge from Shillong to Gauhati ?
- (b) If so, whether he proposes to take up the matter with the Transport Department for high transport charge ?

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

189. (a)—No. The main reason why potato produced in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District cannot compete with the potato produced in some other States in the Calcutta market is the transport bottleneck and the time taken in transit which results in a high percentage of rottage.

(b)—Does not arise.

Subsidised Dispensaries in Assam

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

190. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Government are aware that the subsidised dispensaries which are now running throughout the State are not properly functioning ?
- (b) If so, whether Government will please take over these dispensaries for the interest of better health service to the public ?
- (c) If so, when this will be materialised ?

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Medical)
replied :

190. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—The matter is already engaging the attention of the Government.

Badarpur Local Board Dispensary

Maulana ABDUL JALIL CHOUDHURY (Badarpur)
asked :

191. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is or was any proposal to turn the Badarpur Local Board Dispensary as one of the Primary Health Units ?

(b) Whether any opinion of the Subdivisional authorities concerned was taken in this regard ?

(c) If so, what was their opinion ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that the said Primary Health Unit was established at Baraigram instead of Badarpur ?

(e) If so, why ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical)
replied :

191. (a)—Yes there is a proposal.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The Subdivisional Development Board, Karimganj, recommended conversion of Nilambazar Local Board Dispensary.

(d)—No.

(e)—Does not arise.

Homeopathic Medical System

Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO [Jorhat (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

192. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government have made any research as to the fact that treatment of disease under Homeopathy is the cheapest and harmless than any other treatments ?
- (b) Whether Government has recognised treatment under Homeopathic Medical System ?
- (c) If so, since when and under what basis ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to open an ideal Homeopathic College and patronise the Homeopathic system of treatment ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

192. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Since 1955 under the Assam Homeopathic Medicine Act.

(d)—This matter will be examined and considered.

Steps taken for providing doctors to various Dispensaries and Re: Gauhati Ayurvedic College

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

193. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) What steps have been taken to provide doctors to the dispensaries which are at present going on without any ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to open a medical Institution which may train up medical personnel of the same standards of L.M.Ps. to cope with the dearth of men in the medical line ?

194. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state whether Government propose to open Ayurvedic dispensaries immediately in the localities where the Allopathic dispensaries are kept closed for want of qualified doctors?

195. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state how many students have come out successful from the Gauhati Ayurvedic College and how many of them have been given employment by Government since the very start of this Institution?

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Medical) replied :

193. (a)—Posts of Assistant Surgeon II which could not be filled up for want of Licentiate doctors, are being converted to that of Assistant Surgeon I and M. B. B. S. doctors are being posted gradually.

(b)—No.

194.—No.

195.—Passed—43.
Employed—1.

Cases of Food Adulteration

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) asked :

196. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state the number of Food Adulteration Cases filed by all the Municipalities in Assam separately since 1948 to March, 1957 year by year?

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Medical) replied :

196.—The information has been called for but not yet received.

**Detected cases in connection with Wine Prohibition
in Kamrup**

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

197. Will the Excise Minister be pleased to state—

(a) How many cases have been detected in connection with Wine Prohibition in the district of Kamrup?

(b) How many persons were arrested, jailed and fined?

Shri CHATRA SINGH TERON (Minister, Excise)
replied :

197. (a)—2,400

(b)—Persons arrested—2,063, persons jailed and fined—1,732.

**Re: Number of Maternity Hospitals, Development of
Child Welfare Centres and Family Planning
Scheme in Assam**

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West) asked :

198. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

(a) How many Maternity Hospitals in the State are provided with Government aid or grant?

(b) Is it a fact that no such aid or grant of recurring nature has been extended to Silchar Narishikshasram (Maternity Hospital) except that of salary of a Lady Doctor?

199. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state what steps are being taken for the development of Child Welfare Centres in the State?

200. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state what has been done so far in the State under the Family Planning Scheme?

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (Deputy Minister: Medical) replied :

198. (a)—None.

(b)—Except for lending the services of the Lady Doctor whose pay, allowances, etc., are borne by Government, no other financial aid of recurring nature is given to the Silchar Narishikhshasram (Maternity Home).

199.—An officer trained in Maternity and Child Welfare has been appointed by Government for the development of Child Welfare Centres in the State. In addition, various categories of personnel, *viz.*, Medical Officer, Midwives, Auxiliary Nurse-Midwives, Health Visitors and Dais are being trained in institutions within and outside Assam for posting to various Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

200.—On the recommendation of the Planning Commission a sum of Rs. 1 lakh has been provided in the current year to open 7 Urban and 9 Rural Family Planning Centres in the State. A Family Planning Officer has since been appointed by Government who is now working out details of the Scheme. A proposal to depute officers to the Family Planning Training and Research Centre, Bombay for a short course of training in Family Planning is also under consideration of Government.

Re: Hospital Committee of Nowgong Civil Hospital

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) asked :

201. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that after the provincialisation of Nowgong Civil Hospital, the Hospital Committee, consisted of official and non-official members has been abolished ?

(b) If the answer to question (a) above be in the affirmative whether Government propose to take steps to re-appoint such a Committee for the better management of the Hospital ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical, Minister) replied :

201. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A new Committee has been formed.

Re: Fire in different Towns in Assam during the last Five Years

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA (Tezpur) asked :

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

(a) The number of fire occurrences in different towns of Assam during the last five years ?

(b) The extent and amount of damages and loss to public ; private properties and business caused by each such fire in each town during the above-mentioned period ?

(c) What amount of gratuitous relief and loans were granted to fire-affected persons in each of these towns ?

(d) Whether there are effective means of fire fighting equipments in the hands of the different municipalities ?

(e) Whether Government contemplates to take in its own hands the responsibility of dealing with fire-havocs by opening Fire-Brigade Services in every major town in Assam ?

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

202. (a), (b) & (c).—The information so far received from the local officers in respect of certain towns showing the occurrences of fire, extent of damages and loss and also the amount granted as gratuitous relief and as loans is tabulated in a statement which is placed on the Library table.

(d)—At present Dibrugarh and Karimganj Municipal Boards have got their fire-fighting arrangements. Reports in respect of other municipalities have not been received. As regards Shillong, the Fire Brigade has been taken over by the Police Department from the Municipal Board with effect from 1st April, 1956.

(e)—The question of establishment of Fire Brigades in every major town in Assam is under consideration of Government in the Home Department.

Re : Total Expenditure incurred for Ministers and Deputy Ministers during the Last Five Years of the Assembly term

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) asked :

203. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state what is the total expenditure incurred for each Minister and Deputy Minister of the State separately during the last five years of the Assembly term on account of their (i) Pay, (ii) all allowances, (iii) orderlies, (iv) personal assistants, (v) cost of car, (vi) travelling allowances and (vii) other charges incurred by them inside and outside the State ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

203.— Necessary particulars are being collected.

Re : Allotment of Lands whose Agricultural Lands were rendered useless by the construction of the Main Drain in Dibrugarh

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAKEUR (Dibrugarh) asked :

204. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government propose to give lands to those cultivators whose agricultural lands were rendered useless by the construction of the main drain in Dibrugarh ?

(b) If so, when, and where ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

204. (a)—No such claim for giving lands has been received from any cultivator. Government will consider when such claim comes up.

(b)—Does not arise.

Re: Principle of Granting Loans to Refugees.

Shri B. M. ROY (Shillong) asked :

205. Will the Minister-in-charge of Relief and Rehabilitation Department be pleased to state—

(a) How far it is a fact that the principle of granting loans to the refugees according to priority of applications is not being adhered to by the officials in general authorised to grant such loans ?

(b) Whether Government will be pleased to have an enquiry instituted into the matter by an officer of integrity with a view to redress the grievances of refugees ?

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

205. (a)—Chronological order for granting loans to displaced persons throughout the State is generally adhered to except in special circumstances such as fire, flood, cyclone, etc., and acute distress.

(b)—Does not arise.

Re: Shifting of the Trenching Ground at Dibrugarh

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAKEUR (Dibrugarh) asked :

206. Will Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government propose to shift the trenching ground of Dibrugarh near which the erosion-affected families have been settled, in the interest of the settlers, to Japiahia village Grazing Reserve ?

(b) If so, when ?

- (c) If not, what steps Government propose to take to protect the health and well-being of the settlers ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

206. (a)—Yes.

- (b)—Possession of 65 bighas of land in the Japihagia Village Grazing Reserve was given to the Dibrugarh Municipal Board on 11th June 1957 and the Board are taking steps to shift the trenching ground there.

(c)—Does not arise.

Re: Surrendering of Central Grants in 1956-57

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

207. Will the Finance Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs.13.47 crores of Central Grant had been surrendered in 1956-57 ?

(b) If so, under what heads of Expenditure ?

(c) What are the reasons of surrendering the sum ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Finance Minister) replied :

207. (a)—No.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

Re: Surrendering of Central Grant

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery) asked :

208. Will the Minister-in-charge of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs.13 crores 47 lakhs has been surrendered by our State Government to the Central Government during the year ending 31st March 1957 ?

(b) If so, by which Department ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Finance Minister) replied :

208. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Barpeta Civil Hospital

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

209. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) Since when Barpeta Civil Hospital was taken over by the Government ?
- (b) What is the amount spent for purchasing the equipment and apparatus since the Hospital was taken over by the Government ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the menials' quarter of the Hospital has become unsafe for dwelling purpose as the same is on the verge of collapse ?
- (d) If so, where the menials are now residing ?
- (e) How many seats are there in the said Hospital for indoor patients and what are the average numbers of indoor patients admitted since the Hospital was taken over by the Government ?
- (f) How many Doctors, Nurses, Midwives, Compounders, Wards boys, Dhais and other menials are there in the said Hospital at present ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that the Hospital buildings have not yet been handed over to the Public Works Department ?
- (h) If so, why and who is now repairing and reconstructing the building after the Government has taken over the Hospital ?

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Medical) replied :

209. (a)—Since 13th November, 1955.

(b)—Rupees 6,892-15-0.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Pending repairs, the menials have been accommodated in the corridors and verandahs.

(e)—Thirty-four seats (including paying and Maternity wards).

1955	...	...	...	...	...	75
1956	...	...	...	...	...	513
1957	...	...	390	(upto 14th June 1957).		

(f)—Doctors	...	...	...	3	
Nurses	...	...	...	2	
Midwife	...	...	...	1	
Compounders	...	...	...	4	
Wards boys	...	...	...	2	
Wards girl	...	...	...	1	
Female attendant		...	...	1	
Dresser	...	...	...	1	
Cook	...	...	...	1	} Menials 8.
Masalsi	...	...	...	1	
Peons	...	...	...	2	
Chowkidar	...	...	...	1	
Male Sweepers	...	...	...	2	
Female Sweeper	...	...	...	1	
Dhais	...	...	...	nil	

(g)—Not yet taken over by Public Works Department.

(h)—Public Works Department have taken steps for necessary repairs.

X-Ray Plant at Barpeta Civil Hospital

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

210. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) When the X-Ray plant of the Barpeta Civil Hospital was purchased and installed?
- (b) What staffs were employed for the purpose and since when and what is the amount of salary paid to each incumbent?
- (c) Whether the X-Ray Plant is actually working?
- (d) If so, since when?
- (e) What is the average number of outdoor patients in the Barpeta Chest Clinic?
- (f) How many of them were X-rayed or screened, since it was installed?
- (g) What are the areas, the health visitors survey?
- (h) The number of chest cases detected and sent for clinical test since it was opened?

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Medical) replied :

210. (a)—Purchased in 1955 and installed in April, 1957.

(b)—One Honorary Medical Officer.	{ Since 20th February 1956. Honorarium of Rs.100 per-mensem.
One Health Visitor	{ Since 18th February 1956 at Rs.80 per mensem.
One Laboratory Assistant	{ Since 19th September 1956 at Rs.45 per mensem.
One Radiographer	{ Since 9th March 1956 at Rs.100 per mensem.
One X-Ray Assistant ...	Information not available.
Peon	Since 5th March 1956 at Rs.28 per mensem.
Nursing orderly	{ Since 10th April 1956 at Rs.28 per mensem.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Since 20th April 1957.

(e)—The average number of outdoor patients is 0.59 per day.

(f)—9 patients screened.

(g)—Barpeta Municipal area including Sundaridia and Metuakuchi in the Vicinity.

(h)—31 cases detected and 11 sent for clinical test.

Re: Construction of a road from Mawsynram to Hat Mawdon via Lawbah

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

211. Will the Minister for Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether he is aware of the great need and demand for a road to be constructed from Mawsynram to Hat Mawdon via Lawbah ?

(b) Whether Government propose to consider the question of making a survey of this road ?

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

211. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Road from Mawngap to Jakrem

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [(Cherapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes))] asked :

212. Will the Minister for Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Chief Engineer last year inspected the road from Mawngap to Jakrem, and that the people there at Jakrem represented him to make a branch road from Jakrem to Mawkyrwat and thence to Rangthong in the Maharam Syiemship, United Khasi-Jaintia Hills ?

- (b) If so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of taking up this road as quickly as possible ?

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

212. (a)—Yes, when Chief Engineer, Assam, inspected the road on 3rd and 4th November 1956.

(b)—The road from Jakrem to Ranikor which will also pass through Mawkyrwat was recommended by Assam Road Communication Board (5th Meeting) for taking up by Government. It will be taken up out of Petrol Tax Fund after necessary approval from the Government of India is obtained. The rough earmarked cost is Rs.62,000.

Number of families affected by the recent storm at Jorhat Subdivision

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

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

(a) How many families have been affected by the recent storm at Jorhat Subdivision ?

(b) How many families have been given monetary help and to what extent ?

(c) Will the remaining families be helped accordingly ?

(d) Whether Government proposed to help them with some C. I. Sheets also ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

213. (a) & (b)—The information has been called for from the Deputy Commissioner.

(c)—This will be considered on receipt of Deputy Commissioner's report.

(d)—The Deputy Commissioner has been instructed to give priority to the storm-affected people in issuing C. I. Sheets from his general stock.

Malaguri-Dingding Irrigation Scheme

Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon) asked :

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

(a) Whether the Malaguri-Dingding Irrigation Scheme was completed ?

(b) If not, when will it be completed ?

(c) What amount is allotted for its completion ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) replied :

214. (a) to (c)—Information has been called for from the District Agricultural Officer which will take time to collect.

Social Welfare Centres in different Plains Districts of the State

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

215. Will the Minister-in-charge, Social Welfare Department, be pleased to state—

(a) Whether he will lay on the table a list of Social Welfare Centres in different Plains Districts of the State ?

(b) What is the amount spent during the last 5 years for each of these centres ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

215. (a) & (b)—A Statement is placed on the Library Table.

Secretary, Social Welfare Board, Dibrugarh

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

216. Will the Minister-in-charge of Social Welfare Department be pleased to state—

(a) Who is now the Secretary, Social Welfare Board, Dibrugarh ?

- (b) Who appointed or nominated this person to this position ?
- (c) What was the basis of selection or nomination of this person to this position ?
- (d) What are the functions of a Secretary of Social Welfare Board ?
- (e) Whether there is any co-ordination with the local M. L. As. with the Social Welfare Board in matters of work of this Board ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

216. (a) to (e)—Information is being collected.

Re : Refugees in Assam

Mrs. JOYTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West) asked :

217. Will the Minister-in-charge of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state—

(a) How many Distress Warrants have been issued up till now for realisation of loans given to the Refugees ?

(b) Whether these persons are properly rehabilitated ?

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

217. (a)—One thousand six hundred sixty-two of which 598 were withdrawn or cancelled.

(b)—Majority of these displaced persons are properly rehabilitated.

Re: Expenditure incurred on relief and rehabilitation of Refugees from East Pakistan

Shri B. M. ROY (Shillong) asked :

218. (a) Will the Minister-in-charge of Relief and Rehabilitation Department be pleased to furnish a statement showing the total expenditure incurred by Government year by year on relief and rehabilitation of refugees from East Pakistan since the partition of the Country ?

(b) The total amount actually paid so far on—

(i) Loans.

(ii) House Building Advance.

(iii) Education.

(iv) Other benefits to the refugee students.

(v) Ceremonials.

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

218. (a)—A statement showing the total expenditure incurred by Government year by year on relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons from East Pakistan since 1949-50 is placed on the Library Table. No expenditure was incurred prior to that year.

(b)—

(i) Rupees 4,96,58,879 (Business and professional loans).

(ii) Rupees 79,24,878.

(iii) Rupees 34,38,456.

(iv) Rupees 4,21,666.

(v) No separate figures are available. Expenditure for these purposes is booked along with those on account of natural calamities and financial aid to displaced T. B. patients, etc.

Re: Fatal accident of a P.W.D. Road worker on duty at Patiagaon in Jorhat Subdivision

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

219. Will the Minister for P.W.D. be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware of the fatal accident of a P.W.D. road worker on duty at Patiagaon in Jorhat Subdivision recently ?

(b) If so, what compensation the Government have proposed to pay to the unfortunate family of the deceased workman ?

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

219. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Necessary action has been taken to refer the case to Deputy Commissioner who as Commissioner of Workmen's Compensation Act, deals with such a case.

Motion relating to revision of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Committee be formed with the following hon. Members with the Hon'ble Speaker as the Chairman with a view to examine the present Rules of the Assam Legislative Assembly and to see how far these rules can be brought in line with the rules of the Lok Sabha and similar Rules of the other State Legislatures as may be considered necessary and also to suggest necessary amendments.

Names of Members of the Committee

(1) Hon'ble Speaker—Chairman.

(2) Hon'ble Deputy Speaker.

(3) Shri Hareswar Goswami.

(4) Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya.

(5) Shri Ranendra Mohan Das.

(6) Capt. Williamson Sangma.

(7) Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.

(8) Shri Debeswar Sarmah.

(9) Shri Hareswar Das.

(10) Jonab Moinul Haque Chaudhury.

(11) Jonab Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

(12) Shri Ram Nath Das.

(13) Shri Radhika Ram Das.

(14) Shri Mohi Kanta Das.

(15) Shri Biswadeb Sarmah.

Eight Members will form the quorum of the Committee. The Committee will submit its report on or before 30th October, 1957. Secretary, Legislative Assembly, will be the Secretary of the Committee.

Sir, some opinions have also been expressed in this House indicating that some changes are necessary in our rules. Therefore, in order to make a comprehensive study of our rules and to suggest such amendments as are considered necessary, to bring them in line with the rules in the Lok Sabha and the other States, I have suggested formation of this Committee. The Committee will go into the rules and give their suggestions. With these words, I move this resolution for the acceptance of the House.

(The Speaker then read out the Motion.)

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by the Leader of the House. The Resolution has not come a day too early because we have been feeling that our rules do not provide us sufficient scope for discussion and disposal of many items of business. When we have made the House of People our ideal—and it is the ideal so far as India is concerned—we have also to line up with its rules. I need not go into the various defects in our rules, as the Committee just now proposed by the Leader of the House will go into them. I only hope this Committee will be able to amend the rules in the light of rules prevailing in the House of People and will give us sufficient scope and opportunity for speedy and proper disposal of the subjects that may crop up in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a Committee be formed with the following hon. Members with the hon. Speaker as Chairman with a view to examine the present Rules of the Assam Legislative Assembly and to see how far these rules can be brought in line with rules of the Lok Sabha and similar Rules of the other State Legislatures as may be considered necessary and also to suggest necessary amendments.

Names of members of the Committee

- (1) Hon'ble Speaker—Chairman.
- (2) Hon'ble Deputy Speaker.
- (3) Shri Hareswar Goswami.
- (4) Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya.
- (5) Shri Ranendra Mohan Das.
- (6) Capt. Williamson Sangma.
- (7) Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.
- (8) Shri Debeswar Sarmah.
- (9) Shri Hareswar Das.

(10) Jonab Moinul Haque Chaudhury.

(11) Jonab Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

(12) Shri Ram Nath Das.

(13) Shri Radhika Ram Das.

(14) Shri Mohi Kanta Das.

(15) Shri Biswadeb Sarmah.

Eight Members will form the quorum of the Committee. The Committee will submit its report on or before 30th October, 1957. Secretary, Legislative Assembly, will be the Secretary of the Committee.

The Motion was adopted.

Ruling by the Chair regarding Procedure for making statement by a Minister

Mr.SPEAKER : Before the hon'ble Minister for Labour and Industries makes a statement for which he has sought my consent, I would like to draw the attention of the House that our Rules of Procedure do not specifically provide for any Minister to make a statement on a matter of public importance except in the case of Minister who has resigned his office on a personal explanation on his resignation. The practice in the House of Commons, however, is that a Minister may make such a statement but no debate ensues as no question is before the House. The Rule 372 of the Lok Sabha Rules of Procedure says, "A statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made".

Rule 171 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assam Legislative Assembly empowers the Speaker to decide all questions not specifically provided for by the Rules. Under this rule and in the light of the practice prevalent in the House of Commons and the Lok Sabha, I have given my consent to the Minister for Labour and Industries to make a statement now. Needless to say in the light of the practice in the House of Commons and Lok Sabha no questions will be raised on the statement.

Statement made by the Minister, Labour regarding lawlessness prevailing in certain Tea Estates

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government have viewed with concern the several acts of lawlessness which occurred in Tea Estates in this and past years. While Government are determined to maintain law and order in the State and to see that misdemeanants are punished according to law, Government also feel that it would be proper to study the psychological and other causes which lead to such lawlessness with a view to take remedial measures on a short and long term basis, so that such violence may not occur at all.

Government have therefore decided to set up a Committee consisting of the representatives of Industry and Labour with a public man as Chairman to go into this matter. There will be an official Secretary to the Committee. Government may appoint such other officials on the Committee as may be necessary in public interest.

The objects of the Committee are preventive rather than punitive. Occurrences regarding which cases are pending in courts will be outside the purview of the Committee.

The terms of reference of the Committee will be to probe into causes of lawlessness in Tea Estates and to suggest remedial measures both short and long-term.

So long both Industry and Labour have often been casting blames on each other for these outbursts. It is hoped that the representatives of Industry and Labour when brought together in this Committee will try to study scientifically without any bias the root causes and devise remedies so that peaceful industrial relations, productions and progress might result in this enterprise.

Laying on the table copies of (i) Appropriation Accounts, 1954-55 and Audit Report, 1956, Part II (ii) Finance Accounts, 1955-56 and the Audit Report, 1956 (iii) Audit Report, 1957, Part I

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the table copies of—

- (i) Appropriation Accounts for 1954-55 and the Audit Report, 1956, Part II.
- (ii) Finance Accounts, 1955-56 and the Audit Report, 1956.
- (iii) Audit Report, 1957, Part I.

The Assam Land and Revenue Re-assessment (Amendment) Bill, 1957

Mr. SPEAKER : We shall now resume discussion of the amendment moved yesterday by Shri Jahanuddin Ahmed. The Hon. Minister is to reply.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry I cannot accept this amendment. If this amendment is accepted, it will create unnecessary complications. The Taxation Enquiry Commission remarks "few things are so difficult to gauge as the Indian cultivator's cost of production". Now, here this amendment seeks to fix not only the cost of production but also the cost of other necessities of an agriculturist. If this is accepted then the entire Bill will be unenforceable. To provide for cost of production the Taxation Enquiry Commission advised that sufficient margin should be left between increase of price and increase of revenue. According to this advice we have kept sufficient margin in the Bill. If the increase of price is 5 annas in the rupee then only half anna per rupee may be charged as increased revenue and that half anna in the rupee is the maximum. So, Sir, the

suggestion of my hon. Friend in the amendment that "over the cost of production and other necessities of an agriculturist" will make serious complication making the Bill totally unenforcible. Therefore, I would request my Friend to withdraw the amendment.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : Sir, may I know whether the Hon'ble Minister is willing to accept the cost of production ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Sir, we are bound to accept the cost of production. That is the suggestion of the Taxation Enquiry Commission and that is in the main Act itself and accordingly we have provided sufficient margin in the Bill. We find it very difficult to accept the suggestion of my hon. Friend relating to the cost of production, because there is no reliable statistics to show actual cost of production.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Sir, I am not satisfied with the replies of the Hon'ble Minister. So, I do not like to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that in the new proviso (iii) to Section 13 of the Principal Act sought to be inserted by sub-clause (2) of clause 5, after the words and comma "fifteen years", and before the words "then the assessment, etc.," occurring in the 5th line, the words, "over the cost of production and other necessities of an agriculturist" shall be added.

The House was divided with the following results—

Ayes—26.

1. Shri Birendra Kumar Das,
2. Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya,
3. Shri Brojo Mohon Roy,
4. Shri Emerson Momin,
5. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya,

6. Shri Gopesh Namasudra,
7. Shri Hamdhon Mohan Haplangbar,
8. Shri Hareswar Goswami,
9. Shri Harrison Momin,
10. Shri Hiralal Patwary,
11. Maulavi Jahan Uddin Ahmed,
12. Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy,
13. Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah,
14. Shri Larsingh Khyriem,
15. Shri Mathias Tudu,
16. Md. Matlebuddin,
17. Shri Mody K. Morak,
18. Shri Nilmoney Borthakur,
19. Shri Pakhirai Deka,
20. Shri Prabhatnarayan Chaudhury,
21. Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua,
22. Shri Ranendra Mohan Das,
23. Maulavi Sahadat Ali,
24. Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed,
25. Shri Tarun Sen Deka,
26. Capt. Williamson A. Sangma .

Noes—57.

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 Hareswar Das,
7. Shri Chatrasing Teron,
8. Shri Purnananda Chetia,
9. Shri Mohi Kanta Das,
10. Mrs. Usha Barthakur,
11. Dr. Ghanashyam Das,
12. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika,
13. Shri Indreswar Khound,
14. Shri Khelhoshe Sema,
15. Shri Abdul Hamid Choudhury,
16. Shri Baikuntha Nath Das,
17. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani,
18. Shri Bishnu Lal Upadhyaya,
19. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika,
20. Shri Dandi Ram Dutta,
21. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika,
22. Shri Dhirsingh Deuri,
23. Shri Durgeswar Saikia,
24. Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma,
25. Shri Gauri Sankar Roy,

26. Shri Harinarayan Baruah,
27. Shri Hem Chandra Chakravarty,
28. Mrs. Jyotsna Chanda,
29. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala,
30. Shri Karka Chandra Doley,
31. Shri Khagendra Nath Nath,
32. Maulavi Kobad Hussain Ahmed,
33. Swami Krishnananda Brahmachari,
34. Shri Lalit Kumar Daley,
35. Shri Lila Kanta Bora,
36. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta,
37. Shri Mahadev Das,
38. Maulavi Mahammad Idris,
39. Shri Mohananda Bora,
40. Shri Molia Tati,
41. Shri Nanda Kishore Sinha,
42. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma,
43. Maulavi Nurul Islam,
44. Shri Radha Charan Choudhury,
45. Shri Radhika Ram Das,
46. Shri Rajendra Nath Barua,
47. Shri Ram Nath Das,
48. Shri Ramnath Sarma,

48. Dr. Ram Prasad Chaubey,
50. Shri Sai Sai Terang,
51. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami,
52. Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi,
53. Shri Satsua Angami,
54. Shri Tajammul Ali Barlaskar,
55. Shri Tamijuddin Prodhani,
56. Shri Tankeswar Chetia,
57. Shri Biswadev Sarma.

(The Amendment was negatived.)

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in the new proviso (iii) to Section 13 of the Principal Act, sought to be inserted by sub-clause (2) of clause 5, the expression "25 per cent" occurring in the third line shall be substituted by the expression "50 per cent".

Sir, unless this amendment is incorporated into the Bill, the Bill does not square up with the objects and reasons. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons it has been stated, "Further, while the price level of agricultural produce since the last War has gone up several times, the limit of assessment prescribed in the Act has remained the same". Now, Sir, 'several times' means more than twice. So, the price level of agricultural produce has gone up by more than 200 per cent, since the last War. When the price level fluctuated by more than 200 per cent, the level of assessment has been kept the same. But why? Was it out of consideration for the depletion of the real earnings of the peasantry, or was it because the rise in the prices of agricultural produce by several times which was noticeable in the late fifties did not warrant an enhancement of land revenue, in view of the crushing burden of taxation on the peasantry? Now, Government have come up with this piece of legislation with the proposal to re-assess the land revenue with a view to correlate it to the changing price level; and

they propose to raise the land revenue by $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent for a rise of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent over 25 per cent on a slab scale. Thus for an increase of prices above 200 per cent there was no enhancement, but now the Government seek to increase the land revenue for a rise of even $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. So, here is this discrepancy between the object of the Bill and the provision sought to be incorporated in the Bill. Further, Sir, there is no provision to safeguard the peasantry from the rising price level of non-agricultural goods. Therefore, this provision, *i.e.*, if the assessment is enhanced for a rise in prices of just over 25 per cent for a period of fifteen years preceding the last fifteen years, then it will affect very adversely the poorer category of the farmers with small holdings. It has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the whole thing, I mean, the whole principle of the Bill has been taken from the Report of the Taxation Enquiry Commission. But I would like to submit here that the principles enunciated by the Commission have not been accepted in toto. The Government have accepted its recommendations only so far as it deals with the collection of more revenue from the peasantry leaving out the rest of its recommendations, particularly the healthy and the progressive part, wherein it suggested the abolition of the system of land revenue altogether. Although we feel that the major part of its recommendations are not such as may ensure the maximum benefit to the peasantry, even this Report, we find, suggests elimination of the land revenue system and replacement of it by a system of progressive agricultural income-tax. At page 207 of the Taxation Enquiry Commission's Report, Volume III, we find, "The first of the contexts of future policy we have mentioned is that of total replacement of land revenue as being an inequitable levy. The issue of equity is important only if land revenue, at the present levels of assessment, can be regarded as an unduly heavy burden on the majority of farmers. It is all the more necessary to consider this question, as we will do later, since it seems to us obvious that none of the alternatives cited can be an effective substitute for land revenue from the point of view of the finances of the State Governments, though some of the measures suggested, such as agricultural income-tax, may indeed be extremely appropriate as features supplementary to land revenue itself. It is only necessary to recall that in most States, the proportion of the number of holdings under five acres to the total holdings is more than 50 per cent, while those under ten acres account for 75 per cent, in order to realise how inadequate agricultural income-tax would be as a substitute for land revenue***."

So, Sir, the Government have accepted only the reactionary part of the Commission's Report and have rejected the progressive part. In other words, they are very prompt to enhance the burden on the peasantry but are loathe to relieve them of the burden.

Sir, the Bill will hit the bulk of the peasantry hardest, because though the prices of agricultural produce have registered a rise, the prices of industrial and other products consumed by the peasantry registered a sharper rise, and as a result the gradual impoverishment of the peasantry is continuing. The index number of parity between the prices received and the prices paid by the farmer in the State of Assam has declined from 116.7 in 1951 to 87.7 in September, 1955. These figures, Sir, are not mine, but are computed by our Government. Therefore, Sir, the peasantry have to spend a far greater amount of money on goods other than agricultural produce, than the extra amount that they received from their own produce due to rise in prices. Further, Sir, the cost of production in agriculture has gone up several times. The cost of labour, plough, bullocks and seed, for example, has gone up to such an extent that in the last analysis the real earnings of the peasantry stand much reduced. This applies to the majority of our peasantry. For it has been stated by the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue that in the majority of cases, *i.e.*, over 50 per cent of the cultivating people, hold land below 10 bighas. Naturally, the cost of production for the small holdings is proportionately very high compared to those who are carrying on large scale agriculture. So, Sir, we should not contemplate to enhance the land revenue at present. There should be no enhancement of land revenue for a rise in prices of agricultural produces by 50 per cent or less. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to accept this Amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that in the new proviso (iii) to section 13 of the Principal Act, sought to be inserted by sub-clause (2) of clause 5, the expression "25 per cent" occurring in the third line shall be substituted by the expression "50 per cent".

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Sir, I do not like to accept this Amendment. At present we are not considering the question of total abolition of land revenue. What a particular Minister of the Central Government said in course of his tour in our State we cannot discuss here. But

at present we cannot do away with land revenue. If it is done in whole of India then we shall also follow it.....

Mr. SPEAKER : That is in a way *obiter dicta* and you need not labour on that point, because that will be irregular under the terms of the present Amendment.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : As a matter of fact this figure of 25 per cent has been suggested in the Report of the Taxation Enquiry Commission. It says that up to 25 per cent there will be no increase and after that there will be graduated increase. This is suggested for the sake of uniformity for the whole of India and we cannot change it now.....

Mr. SPEAKER : I am not quite sure whether the Hon'ble Minister is referring to the authority of this House.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : No, Sir, I am not. I have accepted what the Chair has said and am not referring to the authority of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : When the Hon'ble Minister said that "we cannot change it....." I thought that he was referring to the authority of the House on this behalf.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : No, Sir, I was referring to land revenue only. I said that Government cannot now go to that question of total abolition of land revenue, but if the whole of India decided that there will be no land revenue, but then we shall simply fall in line. When the Taxation Enquiry Commission suggest that up to 25 per cent there will be no increase and after that there will be graduated increase and that there should be a uniformity throughout India in this respect, we have introduced this figure. One point I want to make clear is that the Taxation Enquiry Commission is not a separate body ; it is a branch of the Planning Commission only.

Mr. SPEAKER : Does the Hon. Member intend to withdraw his Amendment ?

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : No, Sir,

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is:

That in the new proviso (iii) to section 13 of the Principal Act, sought to be inserted by sub-clause (2) of clause 5, the expression "25 per cent" occurring in the third line shall be substituted by the expression "50 per cent".

(The Amendment was negatived.)

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Sir, I beg to move: "that the table appended to new proviso (iii) to section 13 of the Principal Act, sought to be inserted by sub-clause (2) of clause 5, shall be substituted by the following:—

<i>Changes in prices</i>	<i>Changes in Land Revenue</i>
(a) Upto 50 per cent	.. Nil.
(b) Above 50 per cent but not above 75 per cent.	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.
(c) Above 75 per cent but not above 100 per cent.	9 $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent.
(d) Above 100 per cent	.. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

And after the above.....

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : On a point of order, Sir, this Amendment is out of order because the figure 50 per cent has been rejected in the previous Amendment. This is only in a way.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes, I am also looking into it. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Minister for pointing it out to me. In view of the fact that the previous Amendment of almost the same nature has been rejected by the House, this Amendment is out of order.

I now put the question. The question is that clauses 2-5 do stand part of the Bill.

(This was adopted.)

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): I do not think, Sir, my Amendment to clause 6 will now be in order. So, I do not like to move it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think so. It will not be in order. Then I put the question. The question is that clauses 6 and 7 do stand part of the Bill.

(This was adopted.)

The question is that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill.

(This was adopted.)

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

(This was adopted.)

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Land and Revenue Re-assessment (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Land and Revenue Re-assessment (Amendment) Bill, 1957, be passed.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Sir, my Friend from Dibrugarh raised a very pertinent question when he said that our Government, while considering certain reports does not consider the reports in their totality or in their entirety. They take only those portions which bring a little money to the Government Fund, but avoid or overlook those recommendations which seem to give some relief to the people. Sir, so far as the Taxation Enquiry Commission's report is concerned, there are certain matters which are deemed to be the benefit of the people and there are again others which seek to bring more money to the Government coffer. If the Government seeks to follow the recommendations of the Commission it would be better if all the provisions and all the recommendations of the Commission would have been taken at the same time. The Minister-in-charge said just a little while ago that this Government is not in a position to be guided by the remarks or opinion of a particular Minister of the Union

Government. Of course not. I may suggest that this House is not also bound by law to pass a legislation simply because a particular Commission has given a suggestion that this should be or might be done. When the Government decides about re-assessment or about making some changes in the existing taxation measures, Government ought to take into consideration the entire situation. It has been said that in comparison with the period before the War, there has been some rise in the prices of agricultural produces ; in other words, Government seeks to prove the thesis that the condition of the peasantry has improved a lot in the meantime. That is a one-sided picture. It is a fact that the price of agricultural produce has gone up, but it is equally a fact that the things—the commodities that the agriculturists have to purchase have also gone up in prices and if a proper estimate is made it will be found that the condition of the average peasantry has become worse than it was. It is no doubt true that in the peasantry also there has been greater diversion in the economic position. If we make a class analysis, we shall find that so far as the middle peasantry is concerned they have taken to a two-direction swing. Some of the middle peasantry have become rich. But by far the greater number of the middle peasantry has become poor and most of the poor peasantry has become agricultural labourers and as a result the vast bulk of our peasantry has gone to a position which may be described as a position of impoverishment and indebtedness. There had not been rise in the production in the agricultural field and the incentive of the peasantry has not increased along with the tempo of the First Five-Year Plan or the Second Five-Year Plan. There has been great imbalance in our national economy. In this context, we should review the entire tax situation and we should reconsider whether the land revenue system which is prevalent in the country is sound.

Mr. SPEAKER : I do not think that the hon. Member will be in order to discuss the entire land revenue system. As an experienced Parliamentarian, he knows that in the third reading of the Bill, his observations should be confined to the contents of the Bill. So far as the third reading is concerned, the House is committed to the Bill. Therefore, any suggestions for construction or changes of the entire land revenue system will be out of the order in this context.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

Sir, my contention is that now that this Government was re-considering the situation as envisaged in this Bill, the Government should have taken a direction wherein a proper appraisal of the tax situation in the peasantry is made. Now the Government through this Bill seeks to enhance the permissible quantum of the re-assessment. When previously it was 25 per cent it is sought to be raised to 30 per cent. When it was previously 40 per cent, Government seeks to raise it to 50 per cent. The trend is upward and not downward. My point is that when the Government considers that this is the time to reconsider the situation, the consideration ought to be not in the direction that the Government has taken, but in the other direction, and in taking that consideration, Government of course could have considered the views of persons like the Finance Minister of India, not of course as a directive or a binding principle but at least as a guidance. Then, Sir, the Minister said that with regard to certain things, for example, so far as the land revenue is concerned, the Government would follow the same rule in the same manner as it is prevalent in other parts of India. My submission is that it is not a correct analysis of the objective situation. So far as the subject of land revenue is concerned, that is in the State List, and every State has its own way commensurate with the objective situation in that State. So far as our State is concerned, even according to the admission of the Government, the cost of living of the peasantry has gone three times up and the general economic situation in the country-side is worse than what it was before. So, even admitting that Government needs some money for the nation building developmental work which are in hand, Government could have found out means to find out the money elsewhere, could have taxed those who can pay without taxing the over-taxed poor peasantry, and specially in re-assessment.

When there is a limit set, that limit should not be by-passed, if there be no insurmountable consideration. Sir, I do not see here any insurmountable consideration which might prompt the Government to take such action. Sir, this is not a question of figure, but this is a question of trend, and the trend which has been shown in this particular Bill, is definitely a reactionary trend. Therefore, Sir, I cannot but oppose this Bill.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : Mr. Speaker

Sir, আজি এই সদনত বাজহমস্তী মহোদয়ে যি বিল উত্থাপন কৰিছে, আমি ভাবিছিলো যে সেই বিলত দেশৰ বৰ্তমান পৰিস্থিতিত চাই খাজানা কমিব। কাৰণ আমাৰ বিত্ত-মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে তেখেতৰ বাজেট বক্তৃতাত এইদৰে কৈছিল

“The majority of our agricultural holdings are of uneconomic size.....”

তেখেতে যেতিয়া এই কথা কৈছিল আমি ভাবিছিলো যে তেখেতৰ কথাৰ লগত এই বিলৰ এটা সামঞ্জস্য আছে। এই বিলখন উত্থাপন কৰাৰ লগে লগে মোৰ এটা গল্প মনত পৰিল। গল্পটো হৈছে এই—

গুড়ে ভৰিলে—মোক সকলোৰে খায়, মোক পিতেও, নষ্টও কৰে আৰু মোক জুইতো জ্বলাই। সেই কাৰণে গুড় বজাৰ ওচৰত বিচাৰুখাৰী হ'ল আৰু বজাক বিচাৰ কৰিবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰিলে। বজাই কলে ‘তোমাৰ কথাটো জিপৰ্ণ হ'লে নিশ্চই মই বিচাৰ কৰিম। বাৰু, তোমাৰ কথাখিনি কোৱাচোন। গুড়ে তাৰ কথাখিনি কোৱাৰ পিচত বজাই কলে ‘বাৰু সকলো ঠিক আছে; কিন্তু কিয়নো তোমাক সকলোৰে খায়?’ সি উত্তৰ দিলে, মোক সকলোৰে খায়, কিয়নো মই বৰ মিঠা।’ তেতিয়া বজাই কলে,—‘তুমি যদি মিঠা হোৱা তেন্তে ময়ো তোমাক খাম’।

আমি দেখিছো যে এই গল্পৰ লগত বিলখনৰ সামঞ্জস্য আছে। বৰ্তমান পৰিস্থিতিত আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলে গোটেই দেশখনৰ খাদ্যৰ দায়িত্ব গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে। গতিকে আমি সদায় খেতিয়ক সকলক সহানুভূতি দেখুৱাব লাগে; কিন্তু তাৰ পৰিবৰ্তে খেতিয়ক সকলৰ ওপৰত খাজানাৰ হেঁচা আৰু বঢ়াবলৈহে যত্ন কৰা হৈছে।

আজি উৎপাদনৰ ওপৰত ভিত্তি কৰি যি বিল অনা হৈছে তাৰ লগত যদি বস্ত্ৰৰ দাম তুলনা কৰা হয় তেনেহলে আমি বুজিব পাৰিম যে খেতিয়ক সকলে বহুতো বেচি দামত খেতিৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয় সামগ্ৰী কিনিব লগা হৈছে। ১৯৩৬ চনৰ বস্ত্ৰৰ দামৰ লগত আজিৰ বস্ত্ৰৰ দাম তুলনা কৰিলে বহুত দীঘলীয়া হ'ব, সেইকাৰণে তেনেকুৱা তুলনা কৰিবলৈ নেযাওঁ। তথাপি মই ইয়াকে কব পাৰো যে ১৯৩৬ চনত যি দাম আছিল তাৰ তলনাত আজি যি সামগ্ৰীৰ জৰীয়তে খেতিয়কে খেতি কৰিবলগীয়া হয় তাৰ বহুত গুণ বেচি। ১৯৩৬ চনত গৰুৰ যি দাম আছিল আজি সেই গৰুৰ দাম বহুতো বেচি। গতিকে এই এটা উদাহৰণৰ পৰাই বুজিব পাৰি যে আজি বস্ত্ৰৰ ভ্ৰাম্য কিমান বেচি।

গড় হিচাপে কোন দেশৰ জনপ্ৰতি মাটিৰ পৰিমাণ কিমান চাওক। কানাডাত গড়ে ৫.২৯ একৰ, অষ্ট্ৰেলিয়াত ৪.৭১ একৰ, আৰ্জেণ্টিনাত ৪.৫৬ একৰ, ইউনাইটেড ষ্টেট্ছ অৱ এমেৰিকাত ৩.১৩ একৰ, ছভিয়েট ইউনিয়নত ২.৪৩ একৰ আৰু ভাৰতত

৯৮ একৰ। আজি অসমৰো সমগ্ৰ ভাৰতৰ নিচিনাই অৱস্থা। আমাৰ বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী আৰু ৰাজহ মন্ত্ৰীয়ে যিবিলাক figure দিছে তাৰে পৰাই বুজিব পাৰি আজি আমাৰ দেশত মাটিৰ অৱস্থা কেনেকুৱা হৈ আহিছে। গতিকে তেনেকুৱা অৱস্থাত খেতিয়কসকলৰ খাজনা বঢ়োৱা কিমান যুক্তিসংগত হ'ব মই বুজিব পৰা নাই। আমি গৰীব জনসাধাৰণৰ প্ৰতিনিধি হিচাপে এই সদনলৈ আহিছো। গতিকে আমাৰ দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী এনেকুৱা হ'ব লাগে যাতে আমি সমাজ বাৰাট্টৰ সেৱা কৰিব পাৰো।

যেতিয়া আমি খাদ্য-সমস্যাৰ সন্মুখীন হৈছো, আমি বৰং খেতিয়ক সকলক উদগনি যোগোৱা উচিত আৰু তেওঁলোকক কোৱা উচিত—‘তোমালোকে চ. কাৰৰ তৰফৰপৰা আৰু সমাজৰ তৰফৰপৰা সকলো সহায় পাব। মাত্ৰ তোমালোকে উৎপাদন বঢ়োৱা।’ তাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে আজি খেতিয়ক সকলে নানা ৰকম টেক্স ভৰিব লগা হৈছে। আজি যেনে ধৰণৰ টেক্স লগোৱা হৈছে তালৈ যদি চোৱা হয় তেনেহলে দেখা যাব যে তেওঁলোকে directly নহলেও indirectly বহুতো টেক্স দিবলগীয়া হৈছে। এটা দৃষ্টান্ত দিওঁ চাওক। ১৯৩৬ চনত এটা দিয়াচলাই মনুহে এপইচা দি কিনিছিল। কিন্তু বৰ্ত্তমানে টেক্স লগোৱাৰ কাৰণে দিয়াচলাইৰ দাম বহুতো বেচি হ'ল। ইয়াৰে পৰাই হিচাপ কৰিব পাৰি যে খেতিয়ক সকলে কিমান টেক্স বহন কৰিবলগীয়া হৈছে। আজি কাপোৰেই হওক বা গুতাই হওক, খেতিয়ক সকলে যি বস্তুকেই কিনে তাৰ ওপৰতেই টেক্স দিবলগীয়া হয়। তেওঁবিলাকৰ উৎপাদ্য দ্ৰব্য বিক্ৰি কৰোতেও indirectly টেক্স দিব লগা হয়। ৰাজহ মন্ত্ৰীয়ে কালি মৰাপটৰ ওপৰত bale হিচাপে যি টেক্স ৰখিছে তাকো indirectly খেতিয়ক সকলৰ পৰাই কাটি লোৱা হয়। ঠিক সেইদৰে চাখা-বঁপাতৰ ওপৰত যি টেক্স আছে, সেই টেক্স গৰ্বৰ্ণমেণ্টে বেপাৰীৰপৰা ললেও বেপাৰী সকলে সেই পইচা কমাই খেতিয়ক সকলৰপৰা কিনে। গতিকে এইবিলাক কথা যদি চৰকাৰে চিন্তা কৰে, মোৰ বিশ্বাস, নিশ্চয় চৰকাৰৰ মন গলি যাব আৰু তেওঁলোকে নতুন টেক্স লগাবলৈ যত্ন নকৰিব। কিন্তু যদিহে চৰকাৰে ভাৱে যে তেওঁলোকে কেৱল পইচা সংগ্ৰহ কৰিব আৰু জমা কৰিব, তেনেহলে আমি ক'ব লাগিব যে এতিয়া যি সময়ত বস্ত্ৰৰ মূল্য বাঢ়ি গৈছে, সেই সময়ত মানৱতা আৰু ইন্দ্ৰিয়নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ মূল্য কমি গৈছে। যদিহে তেওঁলোকে যি কোনো উপায়েৰে বস্ত্ৰৰ মূল্য বঢ়াবলৈ বিচাৰে, তেনেহলে সেই অনুপাতে মানৱতাৰ মূল্য কমি যাব। সেইকাৰণে টেক্স লগাবৰ সময়ত মানৱতাৰ পিনে সমাজৰ পিনে লক্ষ্য ৰখি চিন্তা কৰা উচিত। বৰ্ত্তমান আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলৰ যি অৱস্থা তালৈ লক্ষ্য কৰিলে এই বিল কোনোবাকমে সমৰ্থনযোগ্য নহয় বুলি ভাবো আৰু মই আশাকৰো যে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে ইয়াৰ কাৰণে নিশ্চয় বিবেচনা কৰিব।

ইয়াৰ লগতে মই আৰু এটা কথা উল্লেখ কৰিব খোজো। মজলদৈ মহকুমাত বিশেষকৈ পানেৰী অঞ্চলত খেতিয়ক সকলৰ শতকৰা ৫০ ভাগতকৈ অধিক মানহৰ একচনীয়া পট্টা আছে। চৰকাৰে বিধান কৰিছে যে ৫ টকা fee দিলেহে একচনীয়া পট্টা ম্যাদী কৰা হ'ব। যদিহে এই শতকৰা ৫০ ভাগতকৈ অধিক মানুহে ৫ টকাকৈ fee দিব লগা হয়, তেনেহলে তেওঁলোকে আৰু নতুন টেক্স বহন কৰিবলৈ সম্পূৰ্ণ অক্ষম। সেইকাৰণে মই আশাকৰো তেওঁবিলাকৰ অৱস্থালৈ চাই চৰকাৰে এইটো পুনৰ বিবেচনা কৰিব। ১৯৫২ চনৰ আগতে যিসকল খেতিয়কৰ ম্যাদী পট্টা হৈ গ'ল তেওঁলোকে এনে-কৰিব। ১৯৫২ চনৰ আগতে যিসকল খেতিয়কৰ ম্যাদী পট্টা হৈ গ'ল তেওঁলোকে এনে-কুৱা fee দিবলগীয়া হোৱা নাছিল, কিন্তু আজি ৫ টকাকৈ fee দিব লাগিব। তেনে অৱস্থাত তেওঁলোকে কেনেকৈ বেচ টেক্স বহন কৰিব? সেইকাৰণে মই আকৌ অনুৰোধ কৰিছো Treasury Bench আৰু ৰাজহমন্ত্ৰীয়ে চিন্তা কৰি গৰীব জনসাধাৰণৰ কথা, সমাজৰ কথা আৰু ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ কথা পুনৰ বিবেচনা কৰি যেন এই বিলখন উঠাই লয়।

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words regarding the observations made by my learned Friends on the opposite. My Friend from Gauhati has probably considered only one side of the picture. Sir, it is quite clear from the amendment that the persons who will be mostly affected by this Bill, are those who have sufficient lands, I think the land-lords

(Voices)

No, no. That is wrong. We do not recognise the land-lords, they are also taxed

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Sir, those persons who have more lands shall have to pay more land revenues. Sir, in the Tea Gardens.....

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : Revenue will also be realised from the Tea Gardens.....

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : My Friends are aware, Sir, that about 5,000 to 6,000 acres of land is possessed by one tea garden owner ; now when the revenue will be raised, these persons also will be affected, as their revenue will be raised. Those agriculturists who have sufficient lands, they will also be taxed. We know, Sir, that in Assam more than 50 per cent of the people have no land. They are either adhiars or agricultural labours as such no tax will be realised from them. It is only the owners of the land who will be taxed. So, Sir, if we want to benefit the poorer section of the people, then Government should provide more funds for their welfare., and to provide more works for them. Let us, therefore, hope my Friends would not grudge if some tax will be realised from those people who have more lands and who are in a position to pay for the welfare of the State. Sir, regarding the price of agricultural products, my Friends are aware that the price of tea has gone up very high.....

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH : What about the cost of production ?

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Even in comparison with the high cost of production, the profit is still higher. The cost of production may be Rs.1-8-0 or Rs.1-12-0

per pound, but the price of good tea is Rs.4 to Rs.5 per pound ; so we see there is still a big profit per pound of tea. Sir, those people who are in a position to pay more revenue should pay it when the Act comes into operation. Secondly, Sir, I like to point out that the price of paddy has also gone up very high. It is clear from the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill that in pre-war time the price of paddy was Rs.2 to Rs.2-8-0 per maund, and now the price has gone up to Rs.15 per maund.....

Voices—No, no. The price is Rs.8 only per maund....

However, it is apparent, Sir, that the price of paddy has gone up very high in comparison with land revenue. Big land-owners are still paying the same amount of land revenue which was paid by them in pre-war times. So, under the circumstances, Sir, in order to give relief, to do some better and welfare works for the good of the poor people, the big land-owners shall have to pay higher rate of land revenue, so that the poorer section of the people may be benefited.

With these observations, Sir, I request that the Motion moved by the hon'ble Minister be accepted by this House without a division.

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):

মানীয়, অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এইটো বাস্তবিকতে বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা যে আজিও আমাৰ ৰাজহমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই আকৌ এই বিলৰ দ্বাৰাই দৰিদ্ৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ ওপৰত খাজনাৰ বোজা বঢ়াব খুজিছে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণ হ'ল, এতিয়া দেখিছো যে নিৰ্বাচন হৈ গ'ল আৰু স্তৰ্দ্দীৰ্ষ পাঁচ বছৰলৈ কোনো চিন্তা নাই। কিবা অসুবিধা হ'লে পুলিচ আৰু মিলিটেৰীটো হাতত আছেই। যদি এই খাজনা বৃদ্ধিৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ নিৰ্বাচনৰ আগতে হ'লহেঁতেন, তেনেহলে তাৰ প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়া নিশ্চয় বেলেগ হ'লহেঁতেন.....

(A voice 'কেবেলা' হ'লহেঁতেন)।

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member will be completely out of order to refer any other things, except the contents of the Bill. Please confine your observations to the contents of the Bill only.

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, সেই কথা আৰু বাদ দিছো।

আজি আমাৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা অতি দুখ লগা । তেনেস্থলত তেওঁ-
লোকৰ ওপৰত খাজনাৰ হেচা বৃদ্ধি কৰাৰ আগতে কেইটামান মূল অৱস্থাৰ কথা ভাবি
চাবলগীয়া । সেইকেইটা হৈছে,—

The economic condition of those who live mainly by 1.—
Agriculture 2—Value of agricultural products and 3.—cost of
production.

The economic condition of those who live mainly by agricul-
ture এই তিনিটা বিষয়ৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিছে—আমাৰ দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক সকলৰ জীৱন ।
কাৰণ কৃষিৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰা খেতিয়ক সকলৰ জীৱন ধাৰণৰ কাৰণে ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে
অন্ধন কৰিব লাগিছিল ।

মই কেইটামান এই সম্পৰ্কীয় উদাহৰণ দিম । 'মিকিৰ হিলচ'ৰ কেইখনমান
গাঁও, যেনে, নমাটি মৌজাৰ চাইজেং গাঁওত ২২ ঘৰ লোক আছে ।
এই গাঁওকেইখনত মানুহৰ কাৰো খাবলৈ নাই । শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ পানীদিহিং
মৌজাৰ লাচং, চুমানি গাঁও আৰু লাইবিল মিৰি গাঁওত এঘৰ মানুহৰো খাবলৈ নাই । বজা-
বাৰীত ৬৭ ঘৰৰ ভিতৰত ৬০ ঘৰ মানুহৰ এঘৰৰো খাবলৈ নাই । লানিমদিগাৰ ১৯৩
ঘৰ মানুহৰ এঘৰৰো খাবলৈ নাই ।

A Voice— জনসংখ্যা কিমান ?

প্ৰায় ২০০ ঘৰ । জনসংখ্যা কিমান এবাৰ কোৱা হৈছে । এইবিলাকলৈ চালে
দেখা যায় যে, মানুহৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা অত্যন্ত বেয়া আৰু চৰকাৰে সেইবিলাকলৈ একেবাৰে
লক্ষ্য কৰা নাই । জনসাধাৰণৰ এনে দুৰৱস্থাৰ ৰূপ আগত লৈ চৰকাৰে খাজনা বঢ়োৱাৰ
ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব নালাগিছিল । আৰু ই জনকল্যাণৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ প্ৰতিকূলে গৈছে । ই বৰ
পৰিতাপৰ বিষয় ।

জনসাধাৰণৰ কল্যাণৰ নামত আজিও চৰকাৰে জনসাধাৰণৰ হকে কাম কৰা
নাই আৰু তাৰ পৰবৰ্ত্তে ভুল ধাৰণা আৰু ভুল ভেটীত দুখীয়া জনসাধাৰণ
বাইজক অৱহেলা কৰি অহাটো ঠিক হোৱা নাই । এই প্ৰসংগতে মই চৰকাৰৰ
sample survey ও য়ে ভুল তাৰ কথাও উল্লেখ কৰো । আসাম গেজেট, ১৯৫৫ চনৰ
১৪ চেপ্তেম্বৰ ১৫৮০ পৃষ্ঠা,

প্ৰকাশ কৰা—

“শ্ৰীমহেশ্বৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য,— শিমলুঙাৰি মৌজা, বৰী গাঁও । এই মানুহ ঘৰৰ আয়-ব্যয়
ক্ষেত্ৰত চাওক, ইয়াত দেখুৱাইছে মুঠ ১৩৩০ টকা (including money borrowed—
Rs.400) আয় । ব্যয় দেখুৱা হৈছে মুঠ ১৪১০ টকা । Deficit দেখুৱাইছে মাত্ৰ
৮০ টকা আৰু money borrowed Rs.400 তাত দেখুওৱা হোৱা নাই । ইয়াত
হব লাগে মুঠ ষাটি ৪৮০ (চাৰিশ আশি) টকা । এতেকে আপোনালোকে চাওক চৰকাৰে
গেজেটত যি প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে সেইটো সম্পূৰ্ণ ভুল আৰু কব লাগিব এই বিলাক চৰকাৰে
ভুলকৈ Survey কৰিছে আৰু কব লাগিব false data ৰ ওপৰত প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত ।”

আমাৰ গাঁৱত ইমান দুৰ্ভীক্ষ হৈছে যে সৰু সৰু লৰা-ছোৱালীয়েও ভিক্ষা কৰিবলগীয়া হৈছে।

দ্বিতীয় কথা বস্ত্ৰৰ উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি হোৱাৰ কথা বহুতে কয়। কিন্তু আজিও কৃষকে খাই-বই বাহি থকা ধান বিক্ৰী কৰিছে বুলি ভানিলে ভুল হব। বহুতে কয় কৃষকে নিজৰ খোৱা-বোৱাৰ উপৰিও ধান বেচিব পাৰে। যদি মানি লোৱা হয় যে কৃষকে খাই-বইও বেচিব পাৰে তেতিয়া হলে এজন খেতিয়কে ১/ মোণ ধান বেচি পাব কি? পাব মাত্ৰ ১০ টকা। কিন্তু সেই ১০ টকাত তেওঁ ২ খন ধুতিও কিনিব নোৱাৰে। গতিকে দেখা যায়, কৃষিজাত বস্ত্ৰ আৰু শিল্পজাত বস্ত্ৰৰ মূল্যৰ সমতা নাই। বস্ত্ৰৰ দাম কিয় উঠিছে? পাঁচবছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাৰ কাৰণে inflection হৈছে আৰু সেই কাৰণেই দাম বাঢ়ি গৈছে।

তৃতীয় কথা খাজানা বৃদ্ধি কৰাৰ আগতে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কৃষিৰ cost of production চোৱা উচিত। এতিয়া চাওক এজন হালোৱাই এহাল গৰুৰে ১৪ বিঘা মাটিত খেতি কৰিব পাৰে। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ হিচাব মতে ১ বিঘাত ৬/ মোণ ধান পৰে। মোৰ বিশ্বাস ৫/ মোণৰ বেচি নপৰে। বাক ধৰি ললো ৬/ মোণেই পৰে। তেনেহলে ১৪ বিঘা মাটিত ৮৪/ মোণ ধান পাব। মোণে ১০ টকাকৈ বেচিলে ৮৪০ টকা ৰূপ পায়। এতিয়া খৰছ চোৱা যাওক। হালৰ ভাড়া ১০০ টকা ৰূপ লব। এটা হালোৱাক দিনে ২ টকাকৈ হাজিৰা দিলে মাহে ৬০ টকা আৰু ৪ মাহত ২৪০ টকা, বোৱনীক বিঘাপ্ৰতি ২ টকাকৈ বেচি দিব লাগিব। বাক ধৰি ললো ১৪ বিঘা মাটিত ৩০ টকা দিব লাগে। সাৰ, কঠিয়া, গৰখীয়াৰ খৰছ, ধানদোৱা, ধানমৰা, ছেওৰা ইত্যাদিৰ কাৰণে আৰু ৫০ টকা লাগে, গতিকে মোট খৰছ লাগিল ৫২০ টকা। এতিয়া ৮৪০ টকাৰ পৰা ৫২০ টকা বাদ দিলে কৃষকৰ হাতত থাকে ৩২০ টকা—ধৰিলে সেই কৃষকৰ পৰিবাৰত ৫ জন মানুহ আছে। জা-জলপান ইত্যাদি সকলো ধৰি অন্ততঃ এমোণটকৈ ধান প্ৰতিজন মানুহক লাগে। ১/ মোণ ধানত বৰ বেচি ২৫২৭ সেৰ চাউল ওলায়, তাৰ উপৰিও সকাশ-নিকাম, বিৰাহ ইত্যাদিৰ খৰছটো আছেই। তেনেহলে দেখা গল, মাহে ১/ মোণ ধান এজন মানুহক লাগিলে ৫ জন মানুহৰ পৰিয়ালটোত লাগিব ৫/ মোণ। বছৰে ৬০/ মোণ লাগে। এই ৬০/ মোণৰ দাম ৬০০ শ টকা। কিন্তু আমি অগতে দেখিছো যে কৃষকজনৰ মাত্ৰ ৩২০ টকাৰহে ধান আছে। গতিকে তেওঁৰ (deficit) বাটি পৰিল ২৮০ টকা। সেইকাৰণে চৰকাৰক কও যে যদি সাহস আছে চৰকাৰে খেতি কৰি চাওক—অন্ততঃ প্ৰমাণ স্বৰূপে। মই কও যে চৰকাৰে তেতিয়া ৬ টা পইছাও লাভ কৰিব নোৱাৰিব। গতিকেই খেতিয়কৰ সদায়ে deficit চলিয়েই আছে।

১৯৫৫ চনৰ ১৪ চেপ্তেম্বৰৰ আসাম গেজেট চাওক, তাত প্ৰস্তাৱ কৰিছে:—

The land revenue of the State shall not be liable to enhancement on account of drainage works and irrigation works since the last resettlement operations.

*

*

*

*

*

In this connection mention must be made of several important major embankment schemes executed by the Embankment and Drainage Department.

* * * * *

এতিয়া মই চাহবাগিছাৰ মাটিৰ কথা দেখুৱালেই আপোনালোকে বুজিব যে নলা আদি দিয়াৰ কাৰণেই খাজানা বঢ়ালে নহব, খাজানা বঢ়াব লাগিব মাটিৰ আয়ৰ ওপৰত। চাহবাগানৰ মাটিৰ খাজানা বিষাই ৬০ অনা, কিন্তু এবিছা মাটিৰ চাহৰপৰা পায় ২১৫১০ অনা। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে খেতিৰ মাটিৰ খাজানা লয় ১১০ অনা ; কিন্তু সেই মাটিৰ আয় মাত্ৰ ২০ টকা।

গতিকে মই কও যে আয়ৰ অনুপাত অনুযায়ী চাহবাগিছাৰ মাটিৰ খাজানা বহুত বাঢ়িব লাগে আৰু আমাৰ খেতিয়কৰ মাটিৰ খাজানা বহুত কমিব লাগে।

তাৰ পিছত ৰাজহ বিভাগৰ আৰু কিছুমান বেমেজালিৰ কথা কও। বেলৰ আলিৰ কিনাৰৰ কিছুমান মাটি G. M. F. ৰ কাৰণে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে দিছিল। কিন্তু এতিয়ালৈকে সেই মাটি কেন্দ্ৰীয় গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ নে অসম গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ তাৰ একো ঠিক হোৱা নাই। কিন্তু তাত খেতি কৰাৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ খেতিয়কক আমাৰ চৰকাৰে fine কৰিছে।

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : কাক Fine কৰিছে ?

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : দুগধৰ মৌজাৰ বচাশয়ক-ডিফ্ৰায়াল গাঁৱৰ শ্ৰীপদোশ্বৰ গগৈ আৰু শ্ৰীকপেশ্বৰ গগৈক ৮৫ টকা ফাইন কৰিছে। কিন্তু মাটিৰ মালিক কোন, আমাৰ চৰকাৰ নে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰ তাৰ ঠিক এতিয়াও হোৱা নাই। গতিকে এই অৱস্থাত কেনেকৈ fine কৰিব পাৰে ?

যি নহওক মুঠৰ ওপৰত এই বিল একেবাৰে সময়োপযোগী হোৱা নাই আৰু যথা-যুক্তও হোৱা নাই। সেইকাৰণে এই বিল হয় ৰাইজৰ মতামতৰ কাৰণে পঠিয়াই দিব লাগে নহলে উঠাই লব লাগে।

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been opposing this Bill, and even after opposing the clauses of the Bill we see no reason why we should waive our objections to the Bill. Sir, the incidence of land revenue, perhaps barring Bombay, is the highest in Assam and today by this Bill we were asked to give power to Government or to settlement authorities to enhance the land revenue not on any reasonable ground but on the supposed hypothesis that people have been getting more by selling agricultural produce. On a cursory glance it may be correct that the prices of agri-

cultural produce have gone up. But when we compare the prices of agricultural produce with the prices of manufactured goods, there is still a great disparity, and till we cannot bridge this gap, there is no justification for passing a legislation allowing the authorities to increase the land revenue.

Sir, my hon. Friend, Shri Barbaruah has referred to Section 8 of the parent Act. Section 8 of the parent Act speaks of four conditions which are to be taken into consideration, before there is any re-assessment with a view to increase the land revenue. We find that the economic condition of those people who live mainly by agriculture has got to be taken into consideration, the value of agricultural produce and the cost of production, letting and selling value of land. Now if these factors are not taken into consideration before bringing this Act into being, then I am afraid, there is no justification for enhancing the land revenue in our State.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Sir, what is the section ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Section 8 at page 4, Part II, general proposals of re-assessment of the Assam Land Revenue Re-assessment Act.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** Sir, looking at the present Act from this point of view, we would like to say that it is a bad financing if the State has to depend on the inelastic land revenue, and it is not possible to increase in the manner envisaged by the Act. Therefore, we have to look to other means of bringing the surplus produce from agriculture. I think, it would not be very relevant, and so I would like to suggest that the Agricultural Income-tax Act is the best way by which the Government could bring in the surplus produce from the agriculture. I find today in our State the condition of the peasants who live mainly by agriculture is really very deplorable : It is more so, because they have to purchase the daily necessities of life which are mostly manufactured goods which come from outside the State at a very high price, and the high prices of daily necessities of life really affect the economic condition of those who have to live mainly

by agriculture. Therefore, it is necessary to give them some relief and so it would be unwise to enhance the land revenue. Sir, in this fashion we expect that we should not bring any legislation to increase the tax burden on the people of our State. Unfortunately, Sir, we have seen that the Finance Act has increased, though very calumniously, the taxes on the peasantry of the people, and so also the Petroleum has increased the burden of taxes on the people, and now, over all to crown everything, we find this Act to increase the land revenue. Although, there is provision, there is nothing to make it compulsory to re-assess the land revenue in the manner as suggested in the Act. Let this Act remain in the Statute Book. But let Government take into consideration the views expressed in this House before they decide to re-assess the land revenue and increase it. Let them do it twice or thrice. But if we are to be a party to it, at any rate, to increase the burden of taxes on the peasantry, then it would be a criminal act, because by such an act, we will be giving the Government something adequate to compensate their loss.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, রাজস্বমন্ত্রী আমাদের সামনে খাজনা বৃদ্ধির জন্য যে সংশোধনী প্রস্তাব এনেছেন সেই সম্পর্কে আমাদের অনেক বন্ধু সদস্য প্রায় সব কথাই বলে গিয়েছেন। আজকে যদি আমাদের এই রাজ্যের কৃষকদের অবস্থা আর একবার বিবেচনা করে দেখা যায়, এবং সেই দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী থেকে এই ট্যাক্স বৃদ্ধির প্রস্তাব বিচার করে দেখি তাহলে সত্যি আমরা একটু অপরাধীর মত হয়ে দাঁড়াব— আমাদের রাজ্যের কৃষকদের সামনে। আমাদের মাননীয় রাজস্ব মন্ত্রী এবং অর্থমন্ত্রী তাঁদের বিভিন্ন বক্তৃতায় দেখিয়েছেন যে আমাদের এই রাজ্যে গরীবের সংখ্যাই বেশী। মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় একথা বলেছিলেন যে -

“Central taxation heavily imposed on the middle classes and the poorer section of the State where cost of living is already high”
.....

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 6th July, 1957.

SHILLONG :
The 27th June, 1958.

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

A.G.P. (L.A.) No.115/58—220—2-7-1958.