

Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

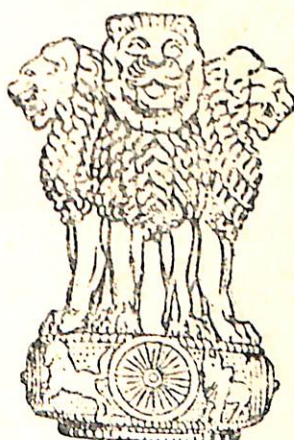
FIRST SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE SECOND
GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE
SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN
CONSTITUTION OF
INDIA

BUDGET SESSION

VOLUME I

No.4

The 12th June 1957



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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A.M. on Wednesday, the 12th June, 1957.

P R E S E N T

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

Complaint for non-receipt of Starred Questions

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): On a point of information, Sir. We have received the Starred Questions just now. But according to the rules Starred Questions ought to have been circulated to the Members on the previous evening which is necessary under Rule 31(4)(b) of the Assembly Rules. I would like to read out the relevant portion of the Rule which is as follows:—

“31. (4)(b). Printed or typed copies of ‘starred’ questions only to be answered on a particular day shall be circulated amongst the members on the previous evening.”

Mr. SPEAKER: I will enquire about this. In the meantime we should proceed.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which Oral Answers were given.)

**Grant to No-Ali Tribal School in North Lakhimpur
Subdivision**

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

- *4. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—
(a) Whether Government is aware that the No-Ali Tribal M. E. School in North Lakhimpur Sub-division is located in a very backward area?

- (b) Whether any grants, both recurring and non-recurring, have ever been given to this school either from the General Grant or from the Tribal Grant under Article 275 ?
- (c) If not, why not ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

4. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No grant either recurring or non-recurring has been sanctioned to the school either from the General Budget or from funds under Article 275.

(c)—The School needs improvement in many directions before any grant can be sanctioned for it.

Assessment of property under the Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) Act

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) asked :

*5. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(a) When the assessment of the property of the residents of Zones A, B, C & D of Dibrugarh Town Mouza is expected to be completed under the Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) Act ?

(b) When the collection of the tax is expected to be started ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied :

5. (a)—The work of assessment is likely to be completed by the end of the year 1957.

(b)—The Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) Act, 1953 has not yet been enforced. Collection will start as soon as the same is enforced.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR : Will the Minister-in-charge be pleased to state if the persons appointed to make the assessment under the said Act are experienced and whether they leave the entire assessment to, the assessee themselves ?

Shri HARFSWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): They are experienced, Sir, but if any complaint comes to us against them we shall examine it.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Will the Minister-in-charge enlighten this House with the proposed rate of Betterment Tax?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Sir, that rate is mentioned in the Act itself.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which Answers were laid on the table)

Silchar Government Aided Girls' High School

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West) asked:

7. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How many High Schools of Assam are to be turned to Higher Secondary in 1957-58?
- (b) Whether any of the Girls' School be included in the above category?
- (c) Whether Government propose to consider the case of the Silchar Government Aided Girls' High School?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education) replied:

7. (a)—Two.

(b)—Under consideration of Government.

(c)—Yes this will be considered in due course along with others.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA: In reply to question 7(c) it has been stated—"Yes this will be considered in due course along with others".

Sir, may I know the names of the schools which are going to be included for the purpose?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA: The matter is not yet decided.

Mrs JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): Will the Government recognise the quality, seniority and the standards of the schools when they will be taken up?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister, Education): Sir, this will be looked into.

Exemption from payment of Betterment Tax by the public of Dibrugarh Town

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) asked :

8. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Assam propose to request the Central Government to exempt the public of Dibrugarh Town from the payment of Betterment Tax as the whole of Assam has been benefited by the construction of revetment over the Brahmaputra along the Dibrugarh Town?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied :

8.—Government have already requested the Centre to bear the entire cost leaving only Rs.50 lakhs to be repaid by the State Government by realising a fee from the persons owning property within the benefited area. The Central Government are however, not agreeable to concede this and are insisting on the realisation of Rs.116.5 lakhs, i.e., half of the total cost of the protection works. The matter is still under consideration of this Government.

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA: মহোদয়, মই ৮ নং প্রশ্নটোৰ ওপৰত এটা উপশ্ৰুণ কৰিব খোজো।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপুনি সোধক।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA: মোৰ প্রশ্ন হ'ল ডিব্ৰুগৰ Revetment ৰ পৰা অকল ডিব্ৰুগৰ বাইজেই উপকৃত হোৱা নাই। অসমৰ অন্যান্য সকলো উপকৃত হৈছে

Mr. SPEAKER: আপুনি চমুকৈ প্রশ্নটোহে কৰক।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA: তাৰ ওচৰে পাজৰে থকা চাহবাগিছ আৰু মেডিকেল কলেজো উপকৃত হৈছে যেতিয়া Revetment ৰ খবৰছটো অকল ডিব্ৰুগৰ বাইজে বহন কৰিবলগীয়া হৈছে কিয়?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister): এই বিষয়ে কথা হৈছিল এইটোবেই যে সৰ্ব্বপ্রথমে এই Revetment ৰ কাৰণে ১ কোটি টকা খৰচ হ'ব বুলি নিৰ্ণয় কৰা হৈছিল.....

Mr. SPEAKER: আপুনি অকল প্রশ্নটোৰ উত্তৰ দিয়ক। প্রশ্নটোৰ দুটা ভাগ আছে—প্রথমতে Revetment ৰ দ্বাৰা অকল ডিব্ৰুগৰ বাসীয়েই উপকৃত হৈছে নে লগতে শিতানে কাষৰে থকা চাহ বাগিছা বিলাক আৰু মেডিকেল কলেজো উপকৃত হৈছে? দ্বিতীয়তে যদি হৈছে তাৰ খৰচ অকল ডিব্ৰুগৰ বাসীয়ে বহন কৰিব লাগে কিয়?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : চাহ বাগান বা মেডিকেল কলেজ উপকৃত হোৱা নোহোৱা কথা উঠা নাছিল। ইতিপূৰ্বে কথা হৈছিল এই যে এই ডিব্ৰুগৰ Revetment ৰ কাম হাতত লোৱাৰ আগতে তাৰ পূৰ্বনিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত খৰচ ধৰা হৈছিল এককোটি টকা বুলি; আৰু এইটোও কোৱা হৈছিল যে ডিব্ৰুগৰবাসীয়ে সমগ্ৰ খৰচৰ আধা অৰ্থাৎ ৫০ লাখ টকা বহন কৰিব লাগিব। তাৰপিচত চৰকাৰ আৰু ডিব্ৰুগৰ বাহিৰৰ মাজত হোৱা আলোচনাক্ৰমে ২০ বছৰ ম্যাদ লৈ ডিব্ৰুগৰবাসীয়ে ৫০ লাখ টকা আদায় কৰি দিব বুলি প্রতিশ্ৰুতি দিয়াত সেই কাম হাতত লোৱা হৈছিল। কাৰণ কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে সেই খৰচৰ ৫০ লাখ মঞ্জুৰী হিচাবে আৰু বাকী ৫০ লাখ ঋণ হিচাবে দিব বুলি প্রতিশ্ৰুতি দিছিল।

কান সমাধা হোৱাৰ পিচত দেখা গ'ল, মোট খৰচৰ পৰিমাণ ২ কোটি ৩৩ লাখ টকা।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপুনি চমুকৈ প্রশ্নৰ উত্তৰ দিয়ক।

Shri HARESWAR DAS : প্রশ্নকৰ্ত্তৃ নতুন সদস্য। গতিকে অলপ বহলাই কবলগা হৈছে।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA: এই সৰ্বমুঠ খৰচৰ ভিতৰত ৰিভেটমেন্ট খৰাই নিয়া খৰচটোও ধৰা হৈছেনেকি?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : হয়, এই খৰচত খৰাই নিয়া খৰচটোও ধৰা হৈছে।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA: যদি সেই খহনীয়া খৰচো ধৰা হৈছে তেন্তে সেই খৰচত উপকৃত নোহোৱাকৈয়ে ডিব্ৰুগড়বাসীয়ে ৰেটাৰমেন্ট টেন্স কিয় দিব লাগে?

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): ডিব্ৰুগড় বাসীয়ে কেতিয়া আৰু ক'ত ৫০ লাখ টকা দিব বুলি কৈছিল?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীয়ে ৰাজহুৱা সভা পাতি আলোচনা কৰোতে তেওঁলোক ৰাজি হৈছিল।

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR : সেই ৰাজহুৱা সভা কোনে আহ্বান কৰিছিল আৰু তাত কোন কোন উপস্থিত আছিল জানিব পাবোনে?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : কোন কোন উপস্থিত আছিল তাৰ কোনো তালিকা নাই, তাৰ বাবে নটচ লাগে।

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): If the revetment prove unsuccessful in future, will the Government refund the betterment tax ?

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a hypothetical question which need not be replied.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): মন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াই 'কোনে'ৰ উত্তৰ দিছে কিন্তু 'কেতিয়া'ৰ উত্তৰ দিয়া নাই।

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister): বেতিয়া বিভেটমেন্ট কৰা হৈছিল তেতিয়াই।

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): ভৰ বাৰিষা শিল দলিয়াই বিভেটমেন্ট দিবলৈ কোনে উপদেশ দিছিল ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister): That is a matter for experts.

Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY (Moran—Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): May we know why the previous revetment was unsuccessful ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : It is for the experts to answer.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): What is the approximate population and area to be benefited by the revetment ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : That is totally a new question. I want notice.

Creation of new Sub-Deputy Collector Circle Office in Kamrup District

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

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

(a) Whether there is a proposal to create some new Sub-Deputy Collector Circle Office in the District of Kamrup for progressive land administration ?

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

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied :

9. (a)—There is no such proposal at present. It is the accepted policy of Government to split up the unwieldy circles for better and efficient management of Land Revenue work. In pursuance of this policy Government have created three new circles in Kamrup District in the past few years.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS (Rangiya—Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Are Government considering the desirability of creating some other Circle Office in Kamrup district ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : We are now examining certain other areas. We feel that some Circles are too big and how best they can be separated—that is under consideration.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) : Will the Hon'ble Minister consider Kamrup district alone or the whole State ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : The question relates to Kamrup only.

Shri MAHADEV DAS (Barpeta—Reserve for Scheduled Castes) : বৰপেটাৰ পৰা তেনে কোনো প্ৰস্তাৱ আছিলনে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : বৰপেটাৰ পৰা কোনো প্ৰস্তাৱ নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER : The question hour is now over.

Regarding Shri Dandeswar Hazarika's query, I found from the Secretary that the questions were circulated last evening. It may be that the Peon could not find Mr. Hazarika. Anyway from now on we propose to be very vigilant. I thank Mr. Hazarika for bringing this to my notice.

Resumption of debate on the Governor's Address

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Lalmawia to proceed with his speech.

PU LALMAWIA (Aijal-East—Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is gratifying to note that the Second Five-Year Plan contemplates a total outlay of Rs. 10 crores for the Tribals. Out of this, Rs. 7.40 crores are ear-marked for the autonomous hill districts and Rs. 2.10 crores for the plains tribal areas. We do not know where 50 crores is to go as the Governor did not mention about it. We also understand that a very large sum of money has been ear-marked from the State revenues for the autonomous districts. But in spite of this the tribal people do not seem to be thankful to Government. The reason is that the party in power do not understand the tribal people and their real need. Each of the autonomous districts has its peculiar problems which require special attention by the Government. The problems of the tribal people are varied and numerous which cannot be satisfactorily attended to by the part-time Secretary and the Minister-in-charge who have many other jobs to perform. Several times I suggested to the Government for a full-time Secretary for the Tribal Areas Department but it was turned down. The Secretary for Home and Appointment is now performing the duties of the Secretary for Tribal Areas Department in addition to his other duties.

Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira): Sir, is the hon. Member reading or delivering his speech?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not propose to condemn the shortcomings of the new Members. But I would request Mr. Lalmawia not to read out a speech. He is however entitled to refresh his memory by looking into his notes but not to read from a manuscript.

PU LALMAWIA: Sir, I was speaking about the part-time Secretary. It is well-known that a part-time Secretary cannot perform his duties satisfactorily and efficiently and for that reason I suggested the appointment of a full-time Secretary for Tribal Areas Department. I also suggested the creation of a Ministry to be in-charge of the Tribal Areas Department, so as to be able to see to the interests of each autonomous district, but this suggestion too was turned down. Under these circumstances the tribal interests could not but be neglected because the party in power did not know what the needs of the tribal people are. Because of the feeling of the tribal people that their interests have been neglected and their problems are not known by the

party in power, the demand for a Hills State was originated. So, I would suggest that the Government should see that so much amounts of money ear-marked for the tribal people are properly and speedily utilized.

I would also like to mention about the language question. As you all know the tribal people are strongly opposed to the imposition of Assamese even as a regional language. When in a parliamentary party meeting or in this Assembly Hall if somebody speaks in Bengali or Assamese which is not an official language as recognised by the Constitution of India, people, who do not know the language become complete strangers. This put us in a very awkward position.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): On a point of information Sir, I would like to know whether Assamese should not be spoken in Assam?

Mr. SPEAKER: But that is not his point. Yes, Mr. Lalmawia please continue.

PU LALMAWIA (Aijal-East Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): My point is that when Assamese is going to be imposed as a State language in Assam, the tribal people, especially the Mizos are strongly opposed to the idea; and when late Shri Bardoloi visited Aijal, a strong opposition was given against Assamese being introduced as a State language. He was very much annoyed. But we could not help it because we strongly opposed to the idea of introduction of Assamese as a State language in Assam. I am glad that our present Chief Minister has assured us that as long as he is the Chief Minister, there would be no imposition of Assamese upon unwilling people of Assam. Yet, in spite of that assurance, some how, forces are working in a direction which we do not like. This language is commonly used in this House and in Parliamentary Party meetings, and even in Government offices a person cannot be confirmed unless he or she passes in Assamese or Bengali in addition to Hindi. Well, Sir, this put us in a very difficult situation. The tribal people are at a very great disadvantage. We are greatly handicapped by this language question. So I would request Government to relax this rule or better still do away with this rule for the tribal people. I am very sorry to mention this because I know many of the hon. Members will feel hurt, but I cannot help it because we also feel hurt on the other hand.

Now, Sir, I want to speak a few words about the impending famine which we expect in the Lushai Hills within two or three years from now. In the Lushai Hills bamboos flower and bear fruits and after that all the bamboos die out and new bamboos will spring out from the fruits. That time has come in some areas in the Lushai Hills and we expect more bamboos will die out, probably all the bamboos will die out next year. So two years from now we expect a famine to come because when these bamboos bear fruits, rats increase abnormally so that they destroy all the crops in the district and consequently a famine comes. Sir, this is a regular happening in our district. At the interval of 48 years or so this famine comes—there is nothing to doubt about it. In between the famine which we call Mautam there is another famine regularly occurring which is known as Thingtam. 'Thing' is the name of another kind of bamboo; this also bear fruit and dies like the other bamboo I mentioned just now. After 30 years this Thingtam famine will occur again. This is our regular experience and there is nothing to doubt about it. Since these famines are very severe, I would request Government to take necessary steps to prevent the impending famine. When Shri Baidyanath Mookerjee visited Aijal last time just before the general elections—he was still a Minister then—I told him about these impending famines, but he could not believe it. He said unless somebody who has had experience of these famines for at least two times, comes and tells him about it, he would not believe. He said that it was only our superstitions. I said, "Well, Sir, if you cannot believe what else can we do because there is none who has had experience of these famines two or three times." However, as I have said, we are expecting this impending famine to come in a year or two. So I request Government to take measures from now on to guard us against this famine.

Well, Sir, I have got so many things to say but as time would not permit me, I will conclude my speech by saying that I support the amendments moved by my Friends in the Opposition and I resume my seat.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought that since the question of food would be mentioned in my Budget speech this afternoon and also there will be a full dress debate on the food position in the State, I would not take part in this debate, not that I am unmindful to the points raised by the hon. Members in the Opposition, but only with a view to economise time. But since my Friend Mr. Lal-mawia has raised a very important point—whether there will

be a famine or not, is a psychological question—I seek your leave Sir, to take just two minutes to dilate on this point.

Yes, whether there will be or there will not be any famine and whether these indications may be or may not be superstitions, we need not go into that. Even if certain ideas may be superstitious to certain people, we respect them all the same. We ourselves also have certain superstitions in every sphere of society or community. What I want to tell my Friend, Mr. Lalmawia is that he would go and tell his people that there shall be no famine in the Mizo Hills. There are I believe two lakhs population in the Mizo Hills—yes, generally speaking subject to correction, there are about two lakhs population in the Mizo Hills, but science and means of communications have advanced to such an extent in our country to-day that it will not tax the efforts of our leaders in Assam or for the matter of that in India, to go and supply food to two lakhs of population in an emergency or even when there is famine. Whatever happens we shall give rice and I would request my Friend, Mr. Lalmawia, to communicate this to his people. In fact even at present in pockets where there is scarcity as reported by the Deputy Commissioner we subsidised rice for Mizo Hills to the tune of Rs.8 per maund. So, Sir, through you I would like to tell Mr. Lalmawia that he need not have any apprehension of a famine in the Mizo Hills or for the matter of that in any part of Assam.

Pu LALMAWIA (Aijal East Reserved): Thank you Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are really very thankful to the Governor for his address and through his address in giving us this opportunity to express our opinion on many problems that confronts this frontier State of ours.

Sir, we expected as many new Ministers have come in there would be some change in the basic policies of the Government and that at least we would feel that a change has come. Unfortunately, although we listened very attentively to the Governor's address and again gone very carefully through his printed address, we found nothing new but a chronic of supposed achievements of the Government and beautifully evading certain major issues about which people are agitating.

Sir, I will deal first with the problems of the Hills because the problems of the Hills are the most important considering that we are surrounded by many foreign countries. There is no doubt that there is a smouldering fire in every autonomous district as has been evidenced in the last general election and it will not help us if we ignore these facts and

very calmly say that every thing is well in the State of Denmark.

Sir, when I listened to the speech of the Governor on the Naga Hills I was of course glad that for the first time this problem has not been dealt with under the heading of law and order but afterwards to my amazement I found that it has just crossed the border of law and order. We have not been able to accept this attitude of the Government as we considered this as a political problem and it is a psychological problem and must be dealt with as a political problem and not a problem of law and order. Sir, I do not want to go into the genesis of this trouble. I will reiterate what I said long before that the Government bungled and the Government mismanaged many things in the Naga Hills which resulted in this problem and I still say that even today I do not see any change in that attitude of the Government. But the fact remains that the problem is a serious one and no one in this House can be complacent about it. It is not only a problem for the other side of the House but it is our problem also and therefore we must all find out a solution. I am glad that three Members from Naga Hills have come to this House and for the first time they have expressed their opinion on the situation. Unfortunately, the major section of the Naga people did not participate in the election, yet we think that these three Members will be able to voice the feelings of the Naga people and help us in coming to certain solution of the Naga problem. What we have found today is the divergent reports given by the Government and the Press. It might be argued that we are not to rely on the Press but unless there is contradiction from the Government side we have no alternative than to rely on the Press reports. Everyday, even yesterday it was reported that many hostiles have surrendered, and not only that they surrendered personally but surrendered with arms and ammunitions. But after so much surrenders, I do not understand how the same situation exists. After all the Naga population numbers not more than 3 lakhs. After so many Nagas have surrendered, I do not understand how the Governor has still to say that the hard core of this problem is still there. Why the Governor has still to say, "In order to enable the Army to take full scale counter action, the Government of India has been approached to send a substantial number of additional Armed Police from other States who can take over guarding of outposts and other static duties". This is a very important thing and we want a reply. At least we are entitled to know what is the actual strength of the hostiles and how many are still there in the hide outs. We want to know how these people

could get arms and ammunitions in such big volumes inspite of our Criminal Investigation Department and Intelligence Department. I want to know also that inspite of so much surrender how could the remaining small numbers fight with an well-equipped Police force and army like that of ours. These are very pertinent questions and we are entitled to replies. It is also said from time to time that everything has been brought under control. In spite of all these things, the Naga hostiles are still active and creating havoc not only in the interior of the Naga Hills but they created havoc coming down to the plains areas of other districts and looted properties from the people of the plains. When I look to this whole operation, which we call a Military operation, now-a-days there are many phrases like peaceful penetration, police action to stop people calling war a war for which we are spending so much money in the Naga Hills. I want to know whether any Minister of this State has visited this area since the operation started. Have they ever gone to see the operations for which our youngmen have gone there and sacrificing their lives? We wanted to go there and see for ourselves what is taking place but unfortunately we were not permitted to go there. When we are spending so much money, we have a right to know how money is being properly spent. When I speak about Naga situation it pains me most when I read that all members of Phizo's family were arrested, of course, only recently they have been released. What I want to say that Phizo can be arrested or even shot dead as he is responsible for all these things but why his children should be penalized? When I found that children of the hostile leaders were arrested, I was thinking whether the system of hostage was not introduced by this Government. Hitler did it and had to pay for the same. In no other civilised country system of hostage is there. To-day in Naga Hills for the sins of the fathers the children are being arrested and kept in thana. I know they have been released now but even then they are still under the strictest supervision of Government. I want to know whether this is in line with democratic traditions and the democratic way of doing things.....

Shri BISNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, does the hon. Member refer to the recent surrender of some of the members of Phizo's family?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Yes, Sir.

Shri BISNURAM MEDHI : Sir, whether the hon. Member means any other persons?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): I do not know why should they surrender if they were not required. Phizo might have done something very bad ; but for this should the children be made to surrender ? Is there any specific charge against them ? Sir, I also say as I have said before that this problem is not to be looked at as a problem of law and order, we have to take it as a political problem. Sir, I am glad to-day that three Friends from Naga Hills who are here now as representatives of Naga Hills will try to bring about the peaceful settlement of the Naga affairs and I can assure you that we from our side will try to do our best to bring about the peaceful settlement of the affairs. Then, Sir, I come to the problems of the other hills districts. There is now a deep-seated discontentment all over the hills and it is something very dangerous to the people of Assam, as we are situated in the corner of India. Sir, there is no denying of the fact that we have not been able to administer to their inner feelings. Yesterday my Friend, Capt. Sangma, said that we have not been able to win their hearts. Sir, I think my Friend is right in saying this because certain small things have caused many a wrong understanding. Sir, the allotment of land in Shillong has been done in such a way that the tribal people have taken it that they have no hope of getting any land for themselves and they feel that there is now a policy of colonisation in Shillong and they feel that they may be ousted from Shillong in this matter. Then, Sir, about the Cherrapunjee coal fields—the whole coal fields have been leased to the Ropeway Company and evidently the local people to whom coal mining is like cottage industry have no other avenues of life. Sir, when the Government can start the Co-operative Sugar Mill, why the Government cannot start a Co-operative Coal Mining Society among the Khasis to enable them to earn their livelihood ? But instead of that, Sir, the Government have imported persons from outside and therefore, this has wounded the sentiments of the Khasi people. Sir, only the other day there was a friendly football match at Gauhati, between the Gauhati Club and Shillong Club. One Khasi player was wounded and removed to Hospital but the doctor (Dr. Uttam Bhattacharjee) did not give any medical aid, subsequently that player had to be removed in the same evening to Shillong. Sir, we do not want to take account of this, but when there is so much of misunderstanding among ourselves such small things matter and mean much why should we give scope to any misunderstanding ? Unless we can administer properly their minds and bring about a psychological change, there will always be a

separatist tendency among the tribal people and so, Sir, I say we cannot take things complacently and white-wash their movement as one of some misguided people. Sir, this Government is not a Government for all times, they have not got the monopoly for saying to the people whatever we think or do is right. We are also here, and we must see that the Government move in the right direction and this particularly our duty as we are thinking that the whole region east of Pakistan should be formed in one region. But if we cannot keep all these who are already with us then how can we attract others and therefore, Sir, this is a very important matter and the Governor has not given the proper picture of this matter.

Then, Sir, I, will come to the question of food situation. Sir, regarding the food situation with your permission I will read some portion from the speech of the Finance Minister made not very late, it was only in December last, that is six months before.

"But even in face of this almost annual set-backs, we in the First Plan period, could exceed our target of 2,30,000 tons of additional foodgrains by 2,055,000 tons and 95 per cent of the additional foodgrains is represented by paddy, the remaining 5 per cent being under pulses, maize, potatoes, etc. In the production of fruits also, the achievement of the State is quite satisfactory and we not only achieved self-sufficiency in the matter of food production but could help others with sufficient quantities of surplus foodgrains".

Sir, the statement was made by the Finance Minister only in last December; how can we to-day go to the Centre and say that we are a deficit State? Either the statement made by the Finance Minister was wrong or made on the basis of false statistics or the food grains are there and that we have not been able to unearth the same. Sir, these are the two alternatives, either the whole statistics is wrong, as I think it is wrong or the food-grains are there in the State and we have not been able to unearth it. There cannot be a third alternative. Sir, the food situation is very grave. The other day when my Friend, Mr. Borthakur, from Dibrugarh read out the reports published in the Shillong Times, it was said that it was a paper report only, but, Sir, when these paper reports are circulated so widely amongst our people, we have to take them as correct and I say, Sir, it is not only the paper report otherwise why the people should be experiencing of the difficulties, why should the food situation be so grave as it is now? The prices of food grains are soaring high

everyday. Rice is now sold at Rs.30 per maund and even in certain areas rice is not available for less than Rs.28. Sir, in the Governor's Address it was stated that this rise in the prices of food commodities is due to inflation and huge investments made under the Second Five-Year Plan. If that be so, I would rather say that the Second Five-Year Plan needs cautious implementation and careful supervision so that burdens on the common people who are already in a very bad economic state may not be burdened further. Sir, I have to say that if the price of the Second Five-Year Plan is inflation, high cost of living, scarcity of necessities of life, I would rather stop it and keep the people alive. All these demand a strict watch on the implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan.

Sir, when I went to Dhubri, my Friend, Shri Jahan Uddin Ahmed, told me that there was a man in Hatpoles who collected the grams from cow-dung washed it and ate it. Sir, you can easily imagine to what extent the food situation has deteriorated.

Sir, the other day my Friends, Capt. Sangma and Rev. Nichols-Roy said about the food situation in the border areas. Sir, everywhere we find that the situation is really very grave. Sir, our new Minister in-charge of food is a new incumbent and he is taking pains to solve the problem and we hope that the measures that he has already taken will bring about atleast some improvement in the food situation. Sir, we feel that in the areas where there is really very very scarcity condition, the rationing system should be introduced so that atleast the people should feel that this Government will not allow anybody to die of starvation. Then, Sir, in the Fair Price Shops there are so many difficulties and so many anomalies that people find it difficult to get rice. First of all Sir, I say about Gauhati. The whole foodstuffs are under the control of a representative of the Central Government and unless the lock is opened by him it is difficult to get foodstuff. A man may have been allotted a fair-price shop. On the first day he will have to deposit the money, on the second day he will go to the office, may be the Supply Superintendent is not there, then on the third day he will again go to the Office, meet the Superintendent, complete the formalities, and then only he gets his supply. Thus a lot of delay is created. All these things have created a sense of frustration in the minds of the people. Sir, I feel that although the production has gone down, there is still in our State sufficient foodgrains may be, not in the surface, in the godowns of the millowners, or somewhere else, in the granaries of their agents, in some of the 'Bharals' of the villagers. It is therefore

necessary to create certain zones and stop movement of rice outside the zone at least for 2 or 3 months and comb out the secret hoard and brought to the surface. No leniency should be shown to such men who want to keep their stocks concealed or want to make exorbitant profit at the cost of the people. Then, Sir, there should be a systematic attempt to increase the foodgrains. Therefore I am thinking whether our Food Supply Ministry should not be tagged with the Food Production Ministry. Because it is not a question of short term policy but it is also a question of long term policy. I know, in Assam certain experiments have given very good results. Take for instance Boro cultivation, its experiment has produced very encouraging results. So also the China paddy cultivation experiment which has yielded very good crops. They can be very well substituted for the normal variety of our indigenous rice particularly in an emergency when we see our people who are used to rice eating have been forced to take Atta. But in case we can increase our food production by encouraging our people to take to Boro and China paddy cultivation, even in emergency we may be saved from encountering such unpleasant situation. Because our people, however much they may be used to our indigenous variety of rice, would definitely prefer Boro or China rice to Atta.

Sir, I do not propose to speak any more on the food situation at the moment, because, as the Supply Minister has already given an indication that we will have an opportunity to speak more on the subject during the discussions on food situation.

Now I would like to speak on a very important subject, a very important problem facing Assam to-day, I mean industrialisation of Assam. Sir, we have been crying hoarse that we do not want to remain any longer as hewers of wood and drawers of water to anybody. We want to occupy the same place of honour and dignity on the soil of our mother country as any other citizen in India. We do not want Assam to remain a colony of anybody, and more so, when we have ample potentialities and also ample opportunity for developing our country industrially. Although we have Ministry for Heavy Industries in our State, although as I have said, we have potential resources for developing various industries in our State, although an Economic Adviser was appointed as early as 1946 and a Blue Book was prepared enumerating therein the different industries that can be started in Assam with great advantage, we have not been able to start a single heavy industry till to-day in Assam. We have been told about the co-operative sugar mill, about the paper mill, about the jute mill and so on. But all these seem to have so far remained only in paper.

Of these all, the most important point that has been agitating the minds of the people is the question of the oil refinery in Assam. I regret to note here that a very responsible person once said that we were trying to give a political colour to the agitation for establishment of the oil refinery in Assam. Sir, nothing is far from our intention. I am indeed very sorry that such a responsible person can attribute such a motive to the spontaneous movement of the people. Whatever that may be there is nothing now for the Central Government to announce their decision. When we met Shri Malaviyaji in the month of August last he told us that the Expert Committee appointed for the purpose would publish their report very soon. He further told us about 3 or 4 refineries that were going to be established in India. He told us that the location of the 4th refinery was fixed at Baroda. Now, even after submission of the findings of the expert committee, why should the Central Government take so much time in announcing their decision? Why our Ministers who so frequently visit Delhi fail to extract a definite reply from the Central Government on this crucial point? Sir, we do not want the oil refinery here in Assam as a panacea to all our ills, not as a means to ameliorate or solve all the economic problems of Assam. There is a great pressure on our available land going on all over the country. Unless this tremendous pressure on land can be relieved and people's minds can be diverted to industries, we are not going to prosper at all. Therefore industrial development of the country has become an essential necessity, and if we want the industrial growth of the country, the oil refinery may give us fillip. There appears to be a confirmed belief in the minds of the industrialists in Assam no industry can grow, and that is why the industrialists in Assam are very shy to start or undertake any fresh industrial adventure in Assam. Now if the oil refinery is started in Assam at the instance of the Central or the State Government, many subsidiary industries will grow up and the country's industrial backwardness will no longer be there. Because thereby our existing capital in Assam, will get a fresh impetus. Even in spite of these cold facts, even in spite of the fact that all the factors for the oil refinery to be established in Assam according to own admission of the Government of Assam themselves are there our Government fail to get the refinery here. I would call upon them to stand and speak out boldly to the Centre, "You yourself come and take over the administration of the country." But instead of taking such a bold step, what do we find? People who started the agitation on their own initiative, have been arrested and put to jail. Some of these cases are still pending and these people arrested for the crime of taking part

in this people's movement have so far received no mercy in the hands of the power that be. Is this the way to deal with a popular movement?

Now coming to the Umtru Hydro-electric project with the power generating capacity of 7,500 kwts, we find that we have not been able to complete it during the First Five-Year Plan. Now 1½ year of the Second Five-Year Plan has also elapsed, the project has not yet come into operation. Sir, Assam is a land with enormous potentiality for generation of hydro-electric power. With the cheap electric power thus generated, we can revitalise the country. We know that certain electric corporations have been started at the initiative of the State, but what is the state of affairs? You do not get electric supply before 6 O'clock in the evening and that even you do not get after 1 O'clock at night. This is the sample of affairs of electricity. We cannot be proud of the achievement in Dhubri town where you do not get electric supply before 6 O'clock in the evening and after 1 O'clock it goes out. In Goalpara and in many other places also it is the same case. So, Sir, are we to be proud of this electricity? Therefore, I say that this basic problem of industrialisation is to be tackled very earnestly. This basic problem should have been given the top-most priority in the Governor's address. I do not find any priority being given to any of the basic problems of the State. There may be difference of opinion in this respect, but I want to know which of the basic problems has been given priority.

(The bell rang, indicating that time was over).

Therefore, Sir, I support the amendments moved by many of my Friends in this side of the House and I cannot accept the Motion of thanks moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, জয়জয়তে মই মাননীয় ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ ভাষণৰ ওপৰত ওলগ জনাই সেই ভাষণৰ ওপৰত শ্ৰীযুত মহীকান্ত দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই অনা শলাগনী প্ৰস্তাবটো সমৰ্থন কৰে।

ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত এটা কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে যে, বিশেষকৈ বাগিচাৰ মজদুৰ সকলৰ সমস্যাৰ কিছু উন্নতি কৰিব পাৰিছে। আইনৰ জৰিয়তে কৰা কামবিলাকৰ উপৰিও অন্যান্য উন্নয়ন মূলক কাম হাতত লোৱা হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে ৰাজ্য পালৰ ভাষণত ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো। প্ৰকৃততে যোৱা কেই বছৰত চাহ বাগিচাৰ মজদুৰ সকলৰ অৱস্থা অকল আইনৰ জৰিয়তেই নহয়—অন্যান্য উন্নয়ন মূলক কামৰ জৰিয়তেও উন্নত হৈ আহিছে। Trade Union ৰ জৰিয়তে কি কাম হৈছে সেই কথা মই উল্লেখ কৰিব খোজা নাই—Trade Union ৰ কামত চৰকাৰৰ সহায় নহলে কেতিয়াও মজদুৰৰ উন্নয়নৰ কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰি। Trade Union ৰ কামত কেতিয়াবা চৰকাৰে হস্তক্ষেপ কৰিব লগাত পৰে। যেতিয়া আমি চৰকাৰৰ মধ্যস্থতা বিচাৰো—তেতিয়া আমি চৰকাৰৰ পৰা সময়োচিত সহায় পাবলৈ সক্ষম

হওঁ আৰু এই ধাৰাইদি চাবলৈ হলে—ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণ কিম্বা দূৰ ধন্যবাদৰ যোগ্য কৰ নোৱাৰো।

মালিক আৰু মজদুৰৰ বিবাদ নিষ্পত্তি কৰিব নোৱাৰি আৰু এই ক্ষেত্ৰত চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰলৈ আহিব লগীয়া হয় আৰু তেতিয়া চৰকাৰে শ্ৰমিক পক্ষক ন্যায় সমৰ্থন কৰে আৰু সেই কাৰণে অসমৰ চা বাগীচাৰ মজদুৰ সকলৰ বহুতো উন্নয়ন মূলক কাম হৈছে। এই দেশৰ চৰকাৰে উদাৰ নীতিৰে কাম কৰিছে আৰু তাকে নকৰা হলে চাহ বাগিচা বিলাকৰ অৱস্থা ইংৰাজৰ আমোলত থকাৰ দৰেই বুট জুতাৰ তলত থাকিলে হোঁতেন। অজি চৰকাৰে যি নীতি হাতত লৈছে তাৰ দ্বাৰাই Trade Union আৰু চৰকাৰৰ সহযোগিতা কৰি কল্যাণ মূলক কামত আগবাঢ়িছে। সেই কাৰণে কৰ লাগিব চাহ বাগানৰ মজদুৰ সকলৰ অৱস্থাৰ যি উন্নতি হৈছে তাত Trade Union ৰ নাহিবে চৰকাৰৰ সহযোগিতা লোৱা হৈছে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এইটো কথা উল্লেখ নকৰিলে ভুল হব যে অসম চৰকাৰে যোৱা ৫ (পাঁছ) বছৰত অসম চাহ বাগিচা সমূহৰ মজদুৰ সকলৰ উপকাৰার্থে Tea plantation provident fund আচনি কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰি, সমগ্ৰ এচিয়াৰ ভিতৰত এটা যুগান্তৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিছে। ইয়াৰ বাবে, বিভাগীয় প্ৰাওন মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীমন্ত অমিয় কুমাৰ দাসক স বৰ্দ্ধনা জনাও। এটোপাল দুটোপাল কৈ পানী গোটখাই যেনেকৈ সাগৰত পৰিণত হয় তেনেকৈ প্ৰত্যেক মজদুৰৰ মজুৰীৰ পৰা টকাত এক অনা দুঅনাকৈ গোটখাই বৰ্ত্তমান এই পুঞ্জিত সঞ্চিত হৈছে দুকোটি টকা। ই মজদুৰ কাৰণে বৰ সুখৰ কথা। কাৰণ ই মজদুৰ সকলৰ বৃদ্ধাৱস্থাত কাম কাজ কৰিব নোৱাৰা হলে তেওঁলোকৰ পোহপালত সহায় হব। বাস্তবিকতে এই প্ৰভিডেণ্ট ফাণ্ড আঁচনিখন কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰাটো আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষে এটা ডাঙৰ achievement আৰু এই বাবে আমি আমাৰ ৰাজ্যপাল তথা আমাৰ চৰকাৰক শলাগ জনাও। এই পুঞ্জি অসমত এটা বিৰাট মূলধন আৰু শক্তি স্বৰূপে গঠন হৈছে।

ইয়াৰ লগতে মই এই কথাও উল্লেখ কৰো যে চৰকাৰে যি বিলাক উন্নয়ন মূলক কাম কৰিছে তাৰ লগত বেচৰকাৰী কিছুমান অনুষ্ঠানও জড়িত আছে। সেই বিলাকৰ ভিতৰত হিন্দুস্থান মজদুৰ সেৱক সংঘ, কস্তুৰবা ট্ৰাষ্ট আৰু অসম সেৱক সমিতি আদি। এই বেচৰকাৰী অনুষ্ঠান সমূহে স্থাপন কৰা কেন্দ্ৰৰ সংখ্যা বাঢ়ক। এনে কেন্দ্ৰৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধিৰ পথত সহায়তা কৰিব পাৰিলে অধিক উন্নয়ন মূলক কাম হাতত লৈ আগ বাঢ়ি যাব পাৰিব। সেইফালে মই চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰো। ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও অথ ১৭ চাবাগিচাৰ বাহিৰেও আৰু বহুত অন্যান্য শ্ৰমিক অনুষ্ঠান বা সংঘ আছে আৰু চৰকাৰৰ তলত কৰ্মচাৰী আছে তেওঁবিলাকেও উন্নয়ন হব লাগে। চৰকাৰৰ অধীনত থকা ফেক্টৰী বিলাকৰ বহুতো factory আইন অনুসৰি পাবলগীয়া সা-সুবিধা পোৱা নাই যেনে Public Works Department, Transport, Factory আদিত কাম কৰা শ্ৰমিক সকলে Factory আইনৰ বহুত সুবিধা পোৱা নাই সেই সকলৰ ওপৰতো এনে আইন প্ৰয়োগ হোৱা উচিত যাতে সেই শ্ৰমিক সকলৰ উপকাৰ হয়। এনে পৰিস্থিতিত চৰকাৰ পৰিচালিত শ্ৰমিক সকলৰ কাৰণে conciliation আৰু Tribunalৰ সুবিধা দি তাৰ জৰিয়তে কাম কৰিবলৈ দিয়া উচিত হব বুলি বিশ্বাস। অসমৰ জনসংখ্যাৰ $\frac{50}{100}$ জন শ্ৰমিক।

অসমৰ চাহ বাগিছা বিলাকত কাম কৰা মজদুৰৰ সংখ্যা ৫ লাখ, ইয়াৰ লগত লোৰাছোৱালীৰ সংখ্যা যোগ কৰিলে ১০ লাখ হ'বগৈ। লাহে লাহে বাহিৰৰ পৰা মজদুৰ অসমলৈ অহা বন্ধ হৈ আহিছে। আৰু লাহে লাহে একেবাৰে বন্ধ হৈ যাবগৈ। এই সম্পৰ্কে শ্ৰমিক সকলৰ সংগঠিত আন্দোলনো হৈছে। হিচাপ কৰি চাই দেখা গৈছে যে বৰ্ত্তমানে এই শ্ৰমিক সকলৰ মাজত surplus labour সমস্যাই দেখা দিছে। এই সমস্যাৰ বিষয়ে মোৰ আগতে কালি শ্ৰীবিগ্ৰদেব শৰ্মা আৰু শ্ৰীউপাধ্যায় ডাঙৰীয়াই উল্লেখ কৰি গৈছে। বৰ্ত্তমানে এই surplus labour সমস্যাটোও এটা ডাঙৰ সমস্যাত পৰিনত হৈ পৰিছে। বাহিৰৰ পৰা যিবোৰ শ্ৰমিক আহিছিল তেওঁলোক এতিয়া ইয়াতে স্থায়ী মানুহ হৈ পৰিছেহি অস্থায়ী মজদুৰ নিজৰ ঘৰলৈ উলতি যোৱাৰ সংখ্যা কমি গৈছে। তেওঁলোক বৰ্ত্তমানে নিজৰ ঠাই এৰি কলৈকো যাবলৈ ইচ্ছা নকৰে। গতিকেই এই চাহ বাগিছাৰ surplus labour সমস্যাটোও এটা ডাঙৰ সমস্যা হৈ পৰিছে। গতিকে যেতিয়া এই সমস্যাটো এনে অবস্থাত আহি পৰিছেহি এতিয়া জনসাধাৰণ, চৰকাৰ, শ্ৰমিকৰ সমস্যা ১৫ বছৰলৈ সমাধান কৰিব পৰা যাব বুলি অনুমান কৰিব পাৰি। surplus labour সকলক আমি তেওঁলোকৰ মাক বাপেকৰ বুকুৰ পৰা আটাই অন্য বাগিছাত কাম কৰিবলৈ পঠিয়াই দিব পাৰিলে এই সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হয়।

চাহ বাগিছাৰ মজদুৰ, চৰকাৰৰ শ্ৰমিকৰ বাহিৰেও সৰু সৰু কাৰখানা, দোকান ইত্যাদিত কাম কৰা শ্ৰমিকৰ সংখ্যাও বহুত। গতিকে এই সমস্যাবোৰ সমাধানৰ বাবে সকলো দল আৰু শ্ৰেণীৰ সহযোগিতা প্ৰয়োজন। মই ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ ভাষণ সমৰ্থন কৰিছো।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are really very thankful to the Governor for the frank modesty he has expressed in paragraph 24 of his Address that it was nothing more than an outline of some of the significant activities of the Government. But, Sir, so far as this occasion, *i. e.*, Address of the Governor is concerned, I would submit that this practice has been borrowed from the tradition of the British Parliament. There, Sir, the Queen's Address is not meant to give an account of some of the past activities of the Government. The policy which the present Government is going to follow, the measures which they propose to take, the steps which the present Government would take with regard to various matters, these are the things that are brought in the Queen's Address. Naturally, as we have borrowed this tradition from the Mother of Parliaments, we expected at least after the Second General Election when the House has met for the first time, that our Government would be pleased to follow that line, which would have been really helpful. We are not so much concerned about figures and accounts of lies—damn lies and statistics! Now so far as statistics are concerned, we find that from year to year they vary and

contradict one another. If we are to believe in statistics of this Government then by this time our country ought to have been filled in abundance, at least so far as food and other necessary materials are concerned. Even though there may not be any famine and may be the scarcity is not as acute as it is felt, yet there is the reality that in the country there is unrest, there is insecurity and everybody is thinking what to-morrow would bring. Therefore, what we expected from the Address of the Governor was to be told what would be the position of food for the people, what would be the fate of industrialisation of the country, what would be the progress that we would make in the sphere of education and culture, and soon and so forth. But instead of these, we have been given certain facts and figures, which could very easily be avoided. For example, this question of Naga Hills has been dealt with at length in the Address, and in the subsequent discussions also this problem has loomed large. I do not want to repeat the things that have already been said. I want only, in short, to say that whatever may be the reason, whatever may be the cause which started the trouble, the fact remains that it is a very unfortunate sore in our body politic. It is really very painful to see that as many as 240 persons should be killed by the hostiles, as they are called, or that some 18 Police and other officers should be lost, or that hundreds of Naga people should be killed and thousands of them should die of famine and starvation, and so on. They are our brothers. How is it that at a time when we in both hills and plains should have put our heads together and work together for the development of our country, are instead fighting among ourselves? The root cause of this trouble should be found out and put to right. Unless and until this is done, simply by placing the Army and invoking the help of police forces from some other sister States or by ambushing the hostiles and surrounding them and pursuing military activities, we cannot reconcile the common Naga people. It is of course pleasing that some representatives have come from the Naga Hills to this House. Yet nobody can be happy with the state of affairs in the Naga Hills where only 8,000 people had cast their votes under all help, guidance and patronage of the Government. Therefore, my earnest request to the Government is that they will not act in a way to bring about such a state of affairs in the Naga Hills, which the famous poet Thomas Hood in one of his poems described—

“O God ! that bread should be so dear, and flesh and blood
so cheap”

If such state of affairs are going in the Naga Hills, then what remains for the good of the people? So I would like to request the Government not to consider the problems now going on in the Naga Hills from merely Law-and-Order point of view. It is not a question of superiority of a section of people over the Nagas. But at least those who are now in power think themselves as superior people and behave in an air of superiority complex.

Then it is said in the Governor's Address itself how much money had been spent and how much more could have been spent, and I myself do realise that a big amount of money had been spent in the Naga Hills, and as a matter of that in all the autonomous districts, and yet the general public of the autonomous districts do not feel that the administration has done something good for them. It is really very painful that no less a person than Reverend Nichols-Roy feels that Independence has come only for the people of the Brahmaputra Valley and not for the people living in his constituency namely Cherrapunji. Why has this feeling come to his mind although he was a Minister under the Government for twenty-five years? Why this administration could not make him happy and make him feel that he is an independent man and that he lives in an independent State? Why is there suspicion in the minds of the people about those who are in the helm of affairs? Why there is superiority complex with a section of our people, at least with those who are men in power? Why do they not feel to quote Shakespeare, that "one drop of blood drawn from thy country's bosom should grieve thee more than streams of foreign gore" The attitude shown to the people of the Hills and particularly to the people of the Naga Hills by the administrators of to-day cannot permanently solve the problems which face the administration to-day. To quote the old Testament, have they asked themselves, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Then, with regard to the food situation, much has been said in the Governor's Address and much more will be said in future. There is food in the country. There is no doubt about this. If anyone wants to purchase rice at Rs. 28 per maund he will get it, but if he wants to have it for Rs. 20 per maund he will not get it. Actually there is no such scarcity as there appears to be in the retail market. Food must have been hoarded by some persons. The question now arises as to how they could have hoarded and who helped them to hoard food. I would charge the Government as being the abettor of hoarders. I will say so, because when the procurement business was being

abandoned no less than Rs.10,18,000 were advanced to the mill-owners in the Kamrup district for purchase of paddy, and no less than Rs.9,28,000 were advanced to the mill-owners of the Nowgong districts. In this way in every other district when the procurement business was abandoned, advances were made to the mill-owners. These people purchased paddy, with this money and hoarded it. On the other hand, they appointed their agents in different parts of the State having given them doles or 'Dadans' with a view to create some sort of artificial scarcity to a great extent in this State. The situation so created compelled our present Supply Minister to go personally to the mill-owners with a view to request them to bring down the price of rice and paddy. They have agreed to bring down the prices by Rs.1-8-0 or Rs.2-0-0 per maund of rice after creating artificial scarcity of food in the market. This is just like a Brahmin giving away the "Abasishtha" as said in the Sanskrit Sloka :—

অপুতে নবকে ঘোৰে ঘোৰে পেঁতনাসিধে

য কাঙ তি ননোচিছন্ত তেবাং ভূমি প্রদীৰতে ।

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Suplpy Minister) : I am in good company with the hon. Member.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : So, Sir, after causing starvation to the people and after making so much unearned profit out of the misery of the people, the mill-owners have given us the "Abasishtha". Should we not find those hoarders and bring them to the tribunal of the people ?

Then, Sir, there is the question of industrialisation. Much has been said about industrialisation in the Governor's Address. The Governor was pleased to say that the Government was very anxious to see that the State is industrially developed. We want to see the Government do something concrete and we expect that this Government will do something in this behalf. They should create a condition and create a situation whereby the Central Government is compelled to install the oil refinery in Assam. Some of my Friends have told me that by having the oil refinery in Assam all our problems will not be solved. But I would like to say that it will open out a vista for further development of the State. Whenever there is any demand in relation to the development of industries in our State, the Government of India people use to say—"How

could you do it? Your communication with the rest of India by air, rail, road and steamer is so weak that it is not possible to develop any industry in the State," and so on. Whenever any demand is made for industrialisation of the State, we are confronted with transport difficulty. When we demand doubling of the Railway Link or its strengthening, we are told that it is unnecessary because we have no industries to feed it. This is a vicious circle. There are ample possibilities in this State for immediate establishment of so many industries. I do not understand why the Ropeway Scheme from Cherrapunji to Pandu could not be taken in the Second Five-Year Plan. That Scheme is an important one in so far as it relates to the opening up of market for oranges, pine-apples and other things grown in the Khasi Hills. By that Ropeway the Government could have found out market for the coal of the Cherrapunji area. To bring out coal from that area hundreds of trucks are employed every day at the consumption of so much petrol and other things. Therefore, Sir, I do not understand why this Government do not feel the necessity of having a Ropeway from Cherrapunji to Pandu. Lack of experience cannot be pleaded here. This is not a new thing. There is already a Ropeway from Chhatak to Cherrapunji. Why should we not learn from its experience?

Then over and above this, we have been hearing for the last three years that there would be a cement factory. At the beginning we were told that it would be in the public sector, and now it appears that it would be going to the private sector. We do not know however when that will come into being. We cannot expect our country to be rich unless and until we are industrially advanced. We have failed to achieve the target of the First Five-Year Plan and to fulfil the aim of the Planning Commission regarding land reforms within the First Five-Year Plan period. The result is that the peasantry who are the producers of food are themselves now groaning under difficulties. It is even from the peasantry that the Hon'ble Supply Minister now is receiving many petitions and requests that there should be cheap grain shops in their areas. Of course, cheap grain shops would not solve this question of food shortage. These cheap grain shops which are supplied by the Central Government subsidy also are not up to the mark. There are something like 484 such shops in number, but if you go round you will find a sign-board "Cheap Grain Shop" but alongside there you will find a chalk mark "no rice" (laughter). Even where there is rice—I will read from the Government circular itself which says—"In confirmation of the instruction already given to you, you are hereby informed that the maximum limit of rice to be issued per week per adult

is reduced to 10 seers from 15 seers" and in these 10 seers also half the supply in Atta is compulsory and unless the allotted quantity of Atta is lifted, issue of rice will be stopped. So, Sir, this is the state of affair in these cheap grain shops also. Therefore, to solve the basic problem of the peasantry, to solve the food problem of the country, it was necessary that our peasantry is stable as an economic unit because, to quote Goldsmith, "But a bold peasantry, their country's pride, when once destroyed can never be supplied."

If our peasantry who constitute more than 70 per cent of our population become impoverished, poor and weak then how shall we build up a prosperous Assam?

For the last five years, Government has not been able to do anything much with regard to betterment of the condition of the peasantry. Government speak well about Community Projects, National Extension Service Blocks and so on and so forth. They are giving figure after figure—in one figure it exceeded even the area of Assam and India. I take it to be a printing mistake though. It says, "At present there are 53 Blocks in operation covering 17,27,000 square miles."

Mr. SPEAKER: That question was raised by one hon. Member from Amguri and Government's attention has been drawn to it.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): It should be 17,257 square miles.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) Even if this new figure is correct there ought not to be any scarcity in our State. The fact is that these figures supplied by Government are not correct, they are bogus and false. In my constituency there is a Community Development Project but the only thing we see there is that there are some buildings only. The first thing that was necessary and which was also the direction of the Planning Commission is that the community should be infused with the idea that it is their plan, it is they who are to suggest, it is they who are to criticise, it is they, if there be mistakes, to correct. But in our State, at least so far as my knowledge goes, the first thing that comes is a Landrover with an officer, then comes the survey party, then some buildings and so on, and then some Gram Sevak workers came to visit the place. In this way the whole thing starts from the top and goes down to the bottom to the inspectors. In fact

these Community Centres are nothing but centres for inspectors with the result that there has been lot of wastage of public money for these projects.

Now, it is not through these things that our State can be built up. It can be built up only on the strength of its industries. There are also many industries that can be set up in Assam. For example, we can very easily have a paper industry in our State. Of course there is a proposal for a paper pulp industry for Assam. But paper industry is one thing and paper pulp industry is another thing. Then there is the question of a bridge over the Brahmaputra. Now it was said last year that some thousands of rupees have been allotted for making a survey. We do not know as yet what are the findings of that survey. In other States in India there are so many multipurpose projects, river valley projects, etc., but in our State which has so many big rivers and tributaries, we have not got even a single project. The Kopili project about which there was so much talk in the past, in which there was so much hope, is nothing now. Then there is the question of exploiting mineral resources from different areas in the State. These two important things have been completely neglected in our State. It is said that we have got no money and yet on the other hand it is also reported that crores of rupees had to be surrendered every year because we cannot spend it. So what is true here? Whether we have no money or whether we have no good administration which can utilise the money available? We should give our serious attention to these things. Now, we expect that after new infusion of blood in the administration at least in this Governor's address there would be indication that the old state of affairs would not continue, that there would be new life and that there would be a new line which will undo the wrongs that have been done. But unfortunately in this report we do not find these things. In this report we do not find a promise of a ropeway, we do not find a promise of a cement factory, we do not find a promise of a refinery, we do not find a promise of a Brahmaputra bridge, we do not find a promise of iron and steel rerolling mill for galvanised materials so that at least the need of our tea gardens can be met. According to the statement made by the Industry Minister himself, 10 crores of rupees are spent annually by the tea gardens in Assam for these things. In our State from the petty industry that we have we can barely supply 1.5 crores. So if we cannot even meet the need of our tea gardens in these things, how can we expect that we can make our country really industrially developed, how can we make Assam prosperous? Apart from that, we are also told that private capital is not

coming to Assam. Why ? Because private capital has not been able to see what prospects have in Assam for their investment. If we have prospected our mineral resources in the State and if Government have taken serious step in that direction, then private capital will also see that there is a field where they can make a profitable investment.

Now we expect that the present Government at least will see to these things and will try to follow a policy whereby the old tale of misery, floods, food shortage, famine subvention and so on, should not be heard again. Let us hope that this new administration with the active co-operation of this new House, will chalk out a policy of industrialisation of Assam on the basis of a strong and stable peasantry and so we shall be able to build up a prosperous Assam.

With these words, Sir, I support the amendments moved by my Friends on this side of the House.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister): Sir, I want to inform the House on a point raised by my Friend, Mr. Goswami, that a Khasi player who was injured in a football match at Gauhati between the Gauhati Town Club and the Shillong Town Club, was not given any medical aid by the doctor present in the Gauhati Civil Hospital when the player was taken there. This is not a fact. For the information of the House I may say that immediately after the player was taken to the Civil Hospital, he was given first aid and as there was no seat available in the general ward, arrangements were being made by the doctor to put him in the paying ward and actually he was writing the admit card for entry into that ward but at that time the people who went there with this injured player suddenly decided to take him away from the Hospital.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Do you want me to go into the details of the incident ? I was told about the whole incident yesterday by an eye-witnesses.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami referred to certain things and the Minister, Health, clarified the position. I do not think a debate can start on it now.

Before I call upon Shri Tripathi to speak, I would inform him that the Chief Minister will start his reply at 5 minutes to twelve.

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): On a point of information, Sir, does it mean that no other Member will be allowed to speak?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the difficulty is that I represent several portfolios. Questions have been put to me by different sections of the House and it is expected that I should give reply to all such questions put but within the very short time at my disposal, it will not be possible for me to reply to all questions. Obviously, the Speaker is guided by rules in allotting time, I hope this matter will be taken into consideration by the House.

Sir, I am thankful to the Opposition, particularly, to Shri Goswami and Shri Bhattacharyya, for bringing to the pointed attention of the House to the necessity of industrialisation. I found that in our State an anti-industrial attitude in the general public. It may be that big industries which consume crores of rupees could be put up by the Government in the State sector but such large scale industrialisation does not start from the top with crores of rupees worth of industries, it is started at the bottom. First of all small industries are taken, then small scale industries come and then Heavy Industries can be taken up. One hon. Member called me the Minister of Heavy Industries. I am not a Minister of heavy industries, as a matter of fact, the Government of India have got a Heavy Industries Ministry but the industries which they are dealing are also tiny in comparison with the Industries in America. I am called the Minister of Major Industries only by courtesy (*laughter*). If we are to start the wheels of industrialisation, I do not know how far we will be able to achieve our object. I hope, with the assistance of the Members in the Opposition and ourselves it will be possible to drive away this anti-industrialisation bias in the State. The other day when I was at Dibrugarh I learnt that a gentleman has started a rerolling mill and immediately some people came and represented to me that smoke and iron-filling have caused nuisance to the people of that area. When I visited that place I found that iron-filling is not at all done there. There is only rerolling. The question of smoke was very easily avoided by introducing electricity but still people continue somehow or other to dislike industrialisation. You know in an agricultural society there is a great bias for industries as a whole. Look at the

Hindu tradition. The people dealing in small industries are classed as artisans and this artisan class is given a lower status in the society. Now in the modern world the industry has come to stay. Therefore we must change not only the minds of the Members here but the minds of the people of the country.

Sir, my Friend, Rev. Nichols-Roy was speaking about difficulties of the the people living in the border areas of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District. I realise and the Government realise it more. What to do when they are cut out from the market? We must find out some new avenues for them. The Government wanted to have a triangular scheme, for starting a thermal plant for electricity, a cement factory and ropeway. These three triangular project of thermal plant, cement factory and ropeway project are interdependent as there cannot be a thermal plant without the cement or a ropeway without thermal plant and cement factory. These are tied in one bunch. Now suddenly the tribal people say that they do not want these industries. After all how these industries were mooted? In order to give these tribal people alternative employment, our Chief Minister wanted to give them these industries and the Company agreed in their agreement that tribal people will be provided with employment.

Now, Mr. Goswami said that there is coal in Cherrapunji and it should be worked on co-operative basis. A colliery is here today and tomorrow it will be dried up. How can there be a co-operative when there is no certainty of such a colliery? How can you find market for the agricultural products, unless there is a ropeway to meet these problem? So I would request the Members of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills present here to co-operate with the Government.

***Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** Is it not a fact that the ropeway project has been dropped and instead mono-rail project is going to be undertaken?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development):** We are not dropping this as yet.

I am making an appeal to the hon. Members in this House from the Khasi and Jaintia Hills that they should come forward to remove the suspicion which is running in the minds of these border people.

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunjee (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** I am thankful to the Minister for making the appeal to the Members of the Khasi land. We would like that the Planning Minister takes the leaders of the people into confidence but if we are considered as not belonging to the Congress party and that these things cannot be discussed with us then we have got nothing to say. If Government take us into confidence we shall show to them where the difficulties are.

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development):** I am thankful to Rev. Nichols-Roy for the suggestion. I accept it and I propose to take them into confidence and not only that but expect in return co-operation so that we can successfully carry out our schemes.

Now, regarding coal, Mr. Goswami was speaking without much information. I may inform him that the present coal in Khasi Hills is sold in the plains at Rs. 54 per ton out of which nearly Rs. 42 is the transportation cost. It does not go to the miners, does not go to the employers, it goes simply for transportation cost, whereas the transportation cost of Raniganj and Margherita coal upto Gauhati comes to only Rs. 43 or Rs. 44. So you will see that the transport cost of coal from Shillong to Gauhati and from Raniganj or Margherita to Gauhati is almost equally the same. Sir, the present coal is subsidised not by the State but by the public who are forced to purchase the coal from Khasi Hills. Sir, as far as I remember, the information is that most of the tea gardens have diesel engines and it is found that the Khasi coal is not suitable for diesel engines and by using Khasi coal the engines are to some extent damaged and so, Sir, the garden authorities do not like to purchase the Khasi coal because they have the diesel engines. Sir, we are going to meet in a Conference and this problem will be discussed there, so that the Khasi coal will continue to be sold in the tea gardens and from the over all picture of the State we shall try our best to see that Khasi coal can be sold to the gardens to maintain the life line which is the necessity.....

***Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunjee, (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Sir, there is another side which should not be lost sight of. Sir, I do not want to interrupt the hon. Minister, but I would like to discuss these things with him personally, so that he may also know the other side of the problem.....

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development) :** Sir, I quite realise the matter. We have already asked the Transport Department so that the empty lorries may be given back loads. We have taken steps in that direction. This will greatly reduce the transportation cost.

Then, Sir, it has been said that no industry is growing up. It will be our endeavour to help in this respect. God willing, Shri Bhattacharyya may not believe in God but we do, and with the help of God we must be successful in all our plans. Sir, I may tell this House that we have unenviable difficulty in the shaping of sterling balance. Sir, a great deal of crisis has developed in the country today. The Government of India is in such a tight corner and we are also in the same position that we have no foreign exchange and without foreign exchange we cannot purchase all the necessary machineries and other implements for the successful implementation of the plans. Therefore, unless and until the Government of India release the foreign exchange, it may be difficult to put the operation effectively.

Sir, regarding the jute mill, cotton mills, cement mill, rolling mill, paper-pulp, etc., the licences are still pending and the same should be obtained. Sir, a list of almost all the schemes has already been mentioned in the Address of the Governor. I have no doubt that this Government will strive hard to bring all these things about. Now, Sir, if the present licencees do not submit their plans or if they create difficulties, I don't think the Government will permit them to hold up the progress of the State, and in that line Sir, we are taking steps so that all the necessary things may be brought about. In this connection, I have had several discussions with the present licencees and they have assured me that they will take immediate and urgent steps so that these industries may be brought to proper footing soon and therefore, I am looking to that end. Now, Sir, a great deal of talk about the refinery is going on. Some people are not satisfied when Government say, "We are anxious for the location of the oil refinery in Assam" that is the attitude of the common people. If Government say that they are very anxious, some people without any responsibility, will say that Government are not anxious, thus making the position complicated.

***Shri JAHAN UDDIN AHMED :** Sir, may I ask whether the Hon'ble Minister will resign if the Oil Refinery is not located in Assam? Will he resign on this issue?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development) :** Sir, this is purely a technical question, we have very little to say about it. Sir, I say one must try to learn to leap before he jumps. Now, Sir, the whole point is that there does not exist any Oil Refinery in Assam. This can be set up not by the Government of India but by a foreign company. Sir, we have no foreign exchange as I have already stated before, we are in great disadvantage. My Friend, Shri Goswami, has travelled abroad and my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, has a great deal of experience of Communist method of organisation, as to how and where industries should be placed or whether such industries are to be established by agitation or demand, and therefore, they will realise that when we want to set up an industry, we require a project report and the project report should be prepared and this report should be submitted to the Consultants and I understand from the Government of India that they are going to determine the question of the location of the Refinery. Sir, from this point of view, we have set up our advisers and when I was last at Delhi I had several discussions with the Secretary and the Ministers and we tried to establish the case from our point of view.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** On a point of information, Sir, yesterday when Shri Barthakur was speaking, he mentioned about the survey of pipe line between Assam and Calcutta particularly for petrol. Shri Tripathi the Minister denied it. Again today in the Amrita Bazar Patrika it appears that the Government of India have allowed the Assam Oil Company to survey the possibility of setting up a pipe line about 800 miles long between Assam and some Calcutta ports.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : I did not deny that, but I said that 9 or 10 crores of rupees will not be sufficient to build the pipe line from Naharkatiya to Budge. My Friend suggested that a nine crores contract be given to a certain firm to construct the pipe line about 800 miles long but I say that the total cost for construction of the pipe line will be between 40 and 50 crores. So, Sir, I say that 9 or 10 crores of rupees will be insufficient for building the pipe line. I have also seen the publication in the newspaper but I have no official information. Sir, I have already given the information to the Government of India who are also very much concerned over this matter. In my discussions with the Government of India people, I did not find that they are unsympathetic to Assam. All things being equal, they have all told me

that they will support Assam's case. But it is a highly technical matter. You might have read a lot about the oil diplomacy in the Middle East. You might have also read about the cartels of oil. These oil cartels are very powerful combines in the world to day. So it is not an easy matter to go or work against these oil cartels unless we have at our command the sufficient technical personnel to work the refinery. The Government of India themselves are in great difficulty because of their lack of resources such as the technical personnel, engineers, etc. Therefore, they are also trying to study the problem and discuss it with the Companies concerned in a rational manner, on the basis of technical discussions and economic discussions rather than on the basis of movement or agitation. We are also doing the same thing. We are trying to convince them from technical and economic point of view that the oil refinery in Assam will be both technically and economically, a feasible proposition. We are glad that it has been admitted by the Central Government that the refinery in Assam is a technically feasible proposition. It has yet to be proved that economically also it is a feasible proposition. We are trying to do it. As you know, in technical and economic matters we have to proceed very cautiously. We are trying, and we are not slackening our efforts. I had a discussion with our Chief Minister regarding this matter, and he has been also giving serious thought over the matter. At present we are thinking of appointing a French Consultant for the purpose. In view of what I have stated, I hope the House will realise that in our earnestness to have the refinery established in Assam, we are second to none. We are trying but how far we shall succeed we do not know. We shall leave no stone unturned, but in our efforts we want your co-operation so that we may succeed.

Now so far as the question of unemployment in the country is concerned, the question is this: what is the position with regard to the unemployed people in Assam? Well that there is gradual increase in the number of unemployed people, there is no denying of the fact. Recently we carried out some investigation in regard to this matter, and we have collected some statistics which our Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, derides so much. But however much one may dislike statistics, we must abide by them, we have no other way. Now in 8 towns of Assam of which statistical figures of educated unemployment have been collected, taking in thousand, I find the position is like this: below Primary 1,100 which is about 8 per cent below Matriculate 1,100 which is 4.8 per cent, Matriculate and above which

is about 1,900 and this comes to 5.4 per cent. We are now trying to collect figures in regard to other towns. Now you will have noticed that so far as unemployment is concerned, major portion is at the level of matriculate and under matriculate. These boys generally go in for clerical jobs. But we want artisans, mechanics, etc., more than we require clerks, if we want to go ahead towards industrialisation. According to this investigation the number of unemployed comes to 5,000.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** What about the Employment Exchange figures ?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development) :** They compare favourably. The Employment Exchange registered 12 thousand candidates.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** But this figure is double of the figure given by the Hon'ble Minister.

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI :** I agree with the hon. Member and that is what I am going to explain. This is due to the fact that at present some people who are under some employment also register themselves in the Employment Exchange with a view to better their prospect.

***Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira) :** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has collected any figure of unemployment in the rural areas ?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI :** I have been talking of educated unemployment which covers 8 towns, not of any rural area.

What I was saying, so far matriculates and under-matriculates are concerned, they are getting jobs in educational institutions, such as school teachers, clerks, etc.

Mr. SPEAKER : Unless the Hon'ble Minister dwells upon his points very briefly, I am afraid, he will be cutting into the Chief Minister's time.

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI :** I propose to cut short my speech as soon as my time is over. Because I do not expect to complete my reply within the short time allotted to me.

I was trying to impress upon the point that our students should direct their educational life in such a way so that chances of employment after completion of studies is greater.

Now from the statistical figures it is very clear that masons, stenographers, artisans, carpenters, doctors, engineers, etc., are in very short supply in our State. For implementation of the 2nd Five-Year Plan a very large number of qualified technical personnel will be required. As compared to our requirements, I would like to give out to the House some of shortage of the figures. They are—

In the senior Basic sector	...	...	380
Junior Basic	...	...	2,940
Post Graduates	...	...	350
Normal	...	...	400
Hindi	...	...	375
Foremen	...	...	39
Shorthand	...	...	184
Civil Engineers	...	...	96
Electrical Engineers	...	...	22
Mechanical Engineers	...	...	8
Overseers	...	...	170
Sanitary, Health and Hygiene, etc.	...	...	201
Nurses	...	...	499
Compounders	...	...	288
Dhai	...	...	248
Agricultural Graduates	...	...	135
Forest Rangers	...	...	133
Motor drivers	...	...	146
Tractor drivers	...	...	188
Mechanic drivers	...	...	178
Cinema operators	...	...	121
Carpenters	...	...	141
Electricians	...	...	130
Smiths	...	...	94

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

On a point of information, Sir, even if all the vacancies occurring in the Government Service are filled up, even then only 4 per cent of the total employed will receive employment. I want to know what will happen to the rest 96 per cent.

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development):** Well, you know industrialisation of a country has a snow-ball effect. At one time there was an investigation in America in this respect and they found that for every man

*Speech not corrected.

employed in primary and tertiary production he was supporting 12 men in tertiary and other sectors. So, the potential of employment in tertiary and secondary sectors is tremendous. This employment of course is in the Government sector. Now we are going over to industrialisation and even if we succeed there will be only a snow-ball effect. The result may be very effective and from that point of view I would request the leaders of this country to create an atmosphere so that youngmen who are capable of putting hard work should not go for clerical jobs. Clerical jobs in advanced countries are held by girls and if that is followed here I think more and more girls can be taken in clerical jobs and men with prowess can be absorbed in other and hard jobs. So far as employment in the rural areas is concerned, I may state that there are two ways: one is we can reclaim land and settle them with more people and the other is we can have intensive production based on irrigation and manuring so that less amount of land can satisfy a family, and this process is being started. In the First Plan this process has made some progress and there is no doubt that in the Second Plan there will be a greater amount of employment shortly. Another process is obviously by way of cottage industries. Now we have given great emphasis with regard to handloom, Khadi and vil-than what we have desired because our administrative machinery was not fully geared up for this purpose. Now we have been trying to gear up the machinery and trying to get more technical personnel. As unfortunately the whole of India is in development tempo, no technical personnel is available anywhere for employment in our State. Our heads of the Engineering Department had been to Madras and Trivandrum for recruitment of engineers and other technical personnel for our State, but they could not be successful and returned with empty hands. Now we can feel what is our difficulty. The number of engineering and other institutes should have been started long before in our State to produce much more technical personnel. This shows that the experience of our difficulty is very great. Some hon. Members complained that we surrendered every year huge amounts. What can we do without surrendering such amounts when we cannot spend them properly and without technical personnel? We have got to do certain jobs through persons of skill and if we have not got such persons of skill we cannot make any headway in such jobs and naturally we have to surrender money. Therefore, we are to face two-edged swords. All the same we are trying to recruit more and more technical personnel. So far as cottage industries sector is concerned, we are taking all possible

steps and we have a feeling to increase in the next 5 years the employment potential and it may go to an extent of 2 lakhs. Employment potential does not mean new employment. It merely means equivalent to two lakhs of jobs, and such jobs will go a great way in removing employment and underemployment problem in the country.

My Friend said that in the speech of the Governor no programme for the future has been given. In this connection we will have to give all the details of the Five Year Plan period but that Plan the Members have already seen. But in the speech one picture of the Plan, that is to say, what is going to be completed in the course of this one year, is to be found. It will be seen from that picture that we have a plan for employment of about 29,000 people under agriculture and about 1,92,000 people in other sectors. Now, if you study these two figures you will find that the number of unemployed youngmen will be less than the number of employments that is going to be created in the coming 5 years (*laughter*). At present we have some unemployment problem and this cannot be tackled fully in a short time. Our Five Year Plan amounted to an expenditure of 290 crores, but that has not been sanctioned and so the fault is not ours. However, with our present plan we cannot cater to our entire needs. But if we complete this plan then the tertiary and secondary sectors of our plan will be achieved and then it shall be able to reduce the unemployment problem of our country to a great extent and thus a great amount of suffering will be reduced. Therefore, I feel that with the co-operation of the people we can proceed with our plan with a pessimistic view rather than an optimistic one.

A point was raised about the supply of electricity. Let us take the case of Umtru Project. The Engineer in-charge of this project is quite young with very little experience, and if you do not speak to him with kind words all his energy and enthusiasm will go. The works so far done there is really creditable. Though the scheme was undertaken in 1952 we had to get the machinery from Canada and the negotiation took all our time and the actual work begun in 1954. Our programme was to complete the project during the last 3 months, but we find that it will be behind the time by 7 months. The reason is quite obvious. The entire tunnel was to come through mountain, but afterwards through progress of boring, it was found that a portion of it was mud and as such that portion had to be abandoned and it had to be diverted to another side of the mountain, and this has naturally taken

some time more. This work is being done through Canadian Engineers and the project is almost ready now and to the opening ceremony all the Members are going to be invited very shortly.

We will go forward with the production of electricity in the country. My Friend said, "You are giving only rationed electricity in some small towns". What can we do? We cannot ride rough-shod over economics. Supposing there are five fans in an area to be run in the day time, would it be economical to run the machine whole-time? We are gradually increasing the load. Wherever electricity is introduced for the first time, full load is not given in the beginning. Gradually the load increases with the increase in demand and as the load develops we also go on introducing more and more electricity. Unless you do that you will have to pay more subsidy. (The bell rang indicating that the limit had reached). My time is up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Shri BISHURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before going into the general matter, particularly the more important matter that have been raised in connection with the amendments, and the feelings that have been expressed by Captain Williamson A. Sangma and Rev. Nichols-Roy regarding the Naga Hills affairs, which are very important and are exercising the minds of everyone living in the State as well as outside (I would like to deal with them after lunch), I would, in the meantime, like to reply to some other matters which were raised in course of the debate. Of course, it will not be possible for me to reply to all the matters that have been raised for want of time. It is also not necessary on this occasion to go into all the details that were raised by various Members of this House, as these are matters which can very appropriately be dealt with at the time of general discussion of the Budget as well as when the Demands for Grants will come before the House. I hope the hon. Members will not take me amiss if I forget or am unable to reply to all the points raised in course of the debate. That, of course, does not show that I do not want to reply. I would have liked to reply to them, if it were possible. I am, however, prepared to discuss about any matter with any hon. Member.

Shri JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): On a point of information, Sir, shall we be given more time during the general discussion of the Budget or during voting on Demands?

Mr. SPEAKER : We will see to that when we come to the general discussion of the Budget. It is too early to raise this question now.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): As I was saying, Sir, I am prepared to discuss any matter with any hon. Member, for ours is a democratic Government, which cannot remain isolated within its party fold. A democratic Government represents not only the party it belongs to, but it represents everyone in the country and it must look to the best interests of everyone. It must know how to understand and appreciate the different points of view, particularly those expressed by the Opposition. It will, therefore, be our sacred duty as a democratic Government and also as Congressmen to try to understand the different points of view expressed not only in this House but also outside. We must keep an open mind and give our best consideration to the views expressed by the Members of the Opposition, though those views might be different to ours. This is the spirit in which we would like to work. I would, therefore, like to make it clear that this Government will always try to understand the respective views expressed by respective Members. It may not, of course, always be possible to agree in all details with the different views expressed by the hon. Members, due to a variety of reasons, such as lack of finance, other practical difficulties that stand in the way, and so on and so forth. But we expect our difficulties also will be appreciated by the hon. Members sitting in the Opposition. We would always like to have their full co-operation and I can assure them that even if we differ after full discussion this will be an honest difference. We have assumed office not with a view to rule and exercise power. The Congress ideology is not merely to exercise power. We consider our office as a trust and a duty that has been given to us to serve the people. We shall try to translate that ideology into practice in our day-to-day administration of the country.

With these preliminary observations, Sir, I would like to reply to a few specific points raised in course of the debate. First of all, I would like to reply to the points raised by Shri Lalmawia. He was speaking about the difficulties of the border areas and the influx of the Chakmas. I have just called for a report from the Deputy Commissioner, in order to ascertain the need of additional police outposts which will be required to deal with this matter. Secondly, he apprehends

food scarcity and starvation in his district. An assurance has been given by our Supply Minister on behalf of the Government that in a free country we cannot allow any one to die of starvation. This is true not only for Assam but for the rest of the country as well. That is why large quantities of foodgrains are being imported into the country, in spite of our foreign exchange shortage, so that there may be sufficient stock for distribution in the needy areas. That assurance is there. In the meantime we shall see whether any steps can be taken to combat the rat menace, which he apprehends.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is already 12-30. The House will rise now and meet at 2 P.M. The Chief Minister will resume his speech then.

(Adjournment)

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

(After Lunch)

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I go into the problems of the Naga Hills, I would like to reply to some of the points that have been raised by my honourable Friend, Mr. Lalmawia, regarding imposition of Assamese language in the hills. I do not know if his inference or suspicion or apprehension of the imposition of Assamese language in the hills has been inferred from any action of the Government, or from any action that has been taken by non-official organisations. He has not given any hint as to why he has apprehended that. To my mind, it appears that a resolution was adopted by the Tribal Conference at Tura in the Garo Hills against continuance of Assamese language in those schools where Assamese was the medium of education in the primary stage. That Tribal Conference is not a political body, and as such Government has no control over them, and Government cannot take steps against any party unless they transgress the provision of law, or make any breach of peace. There is no proposal from the Government to impose Assamese language in any part of the hills or in any area where people do not like to learn it. Unless the language could attract people to learn it, no one should try to impose it on others. That must be the fountain of idea to attract people to learn any language. Then in the interest of business and trade relations, the businessmen like to follow the customs and to learn the language of the place where they carry on their business. These are generally the circumstances under which people learn the language of other areas. The Government has not taken any action to

impose the Assamese language in the hills though with a view to bring about good relations between the people of the hills and the people of the plains it is to some extent necessary to learn each others language. Even in the Naga Hills there are as many as 22 different dialects—each range speaks a different dialect. But when the people of the Naga Hills speaking different dialects exchange their views they do so through the medium of Naga-Assamese language and the Assamese people also exchange their views with Nagas through the medium of Naga-Assamese language. As a matter of fact when our Prime Minister visited Assam last time at Jorhat a large number of Naga people met him and he was speaking to them in English and the reply that was given to the Prime Minister by the Naga people was in broken Assamese which had to be translated into English for the Prime Minister. So, Sir, this is a question of necessity and was not and cannot be imposed on anybody.

(At this stage the Speaker vacated the Chair and the Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

Our idea is that the people of the plains ought to know something of the languages of the hills as far as possible. That is why this Government is providing facilities for learning the hill languages in the the secondary schools, and that is why provision has been made for learning Khasi, Garo and other hill languages. It is not compulsory, but to those who want to learn, facilities have been provided for learning such languages. In order to inculcate that spirit amongst the youngmen of the plains this Government has made provision in the plains areas so that the people living in the borders specially could learn the language of the hills. In fact, as many as 30 per cent of the words in the Assamese language are from hill languages.

Pu LALMAWIA [Aijal-East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, for the information of the House, I would like to say that my points which have been raised by me are not to object the provision of learning different languages. But the point that we object to is that Assamese and Bengali languages are being thrust upon non-Assamese and non-Bengalis. Unless one passes the Assamese or Bengali language a person holding a Government service cannot be confirmed in a post.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): So, we have made provision for learning the languages of the tribals by those who want to learn voluntarily. I am glad to inform the hon. Members that some Khasi girls have learnt Hindi and Assamese in two or three months' time. After one year's training they can write good articles in these languages. So there is no question of imposition of any condition to learn these languages.

As regards service people we have of course imposed a condition on those who will be serving in the hill areas of the State. They must pass the language of the hill area where they serve within three years. We expect that a particular officer serving in the Mizo Hills will not continue to serve there for many years, but that he may in the interest of the public service be required to go to Garo Hills or to the plains. This condition is not imposed at the time of recruitment as in the case of the Indian Administrative Service. But after some time these officers may be posted to the hill areas or to the plains areas. It is desirable that they should learn the major language of the area where they are likely to serve. Unfortunately, Sir, we have so many dialects and so many different languages in our State. It is only to bring about unity among the various sections of the people that we want our officers to come in closer contact with them in places where they are required to serve. In order to be able to do so these officers must know the language of the locality. They have to serve the people there and come into closer contact with them which is not possible through the medium of some one else. With this object in view, these rules have been framed, but there is no difficulty in passing the examination. Sufficient time and opportunity is given to the officers to be conversant with the language. If they are not transferred to the plains areas at any time, they may not be required to pass the examination. But when they are required to pass the examination it is not a very stiff examination, it is not an examination on literature. They are required to know the language in the sense that they can exchange their views with the people. So, that is the idea and with that idea in view, these rules are framed. They are equally applicable to everyone of the officers, and all possible facilities are given to them to pass the examination.

I would just like to come to the most burning problem in which a large number of speakers took part when the amendments were moved. I may at the outset tell the hon. Members that I am as anxious as any one of them in this House and any one outside the House to bring about a settlement of

this vexed Naga problem at as early a date as possible but the only consideration which is engaging our attention is how this could be done and what method should be adopted. Sir, in order to understand the problem in its true perspective, we must take into consideration the surrounding circumstances and other factors obtaining in the Naga Hills to-day. Not only the hon. Members of this House, the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and all Ministers of the Central Cabinet and all publicmen in the country at large are anxious to have a peaceful solution of the problem. I caution my hon. Friends here that we are passing through a delicate situation in the Naga Hills at present. Anything said or talked in this House may have a contrary reaction in the Naga Hills and a solution of the problem that we have been expecting, instead of being achieved, may be difficult of solution. A warning has also been given by some of my Friends here that those who do not know anything of the Naga people must not pass any opinion. The first requisite to the solution of the problem is the maintenance of law and order and the creation of a peaceful atmosphere in the Naga Hills district.

In moving amendments to the Motion of Thanks several hon. Members have found fault with the Government policy in the Naga Hills. One hon. Member has stated that the Governor's Address does not contain proper appreciation of the problem and fails to enunciate definite measures for solving the problem. Another hon. Member has gone to the length of accusing the Government of bungling the situation. The hon. Member from Amguri has regretted that the Address only underlines the strong arm policy of the Government and fails to indicate any willingness on the part of the Government for a peaceful political settlement of the Naga problem.

I would just place the facts before the hon. Members as well as the statements that I have been making from time to time on the floor of this House to get a clear appreciation of the situation. Is the Naga situation due to any grievance against any specific acts or policy of Government or the provision or operation of any law or provision of the Constitution or due to the absurd demand that has been made by Phizo and his camp followers? Do the hon. Members want to give Phizo and men of his type complete independence and allow them to secede from India? Do my Friends want these extremist Naga Leaders to go out of India and negotiate with some outside powers? I am quite sure not a single Member in this House, not a single man in India would like to give complete independence to Naga land and settle the matter that way. Again, should

such an absurd demand be accepted on the threat of violence ? Will that be a solution of the problem ? Are we going to set examples to others to commit violence for the attainment of their political objectives ?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) : But Mahatma Gandhi did not think like that.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : It is no doubt a good idea to preach non-violence. If a man wants to kill me I may try to win him by non-violent means. But if he wants to kill other people it is my bounden duty to protect him by all means, not to speak of the Government. So I say that so long as the demand for independence remains and so long as there are violent activities and attempts to create disintegration of the country there can be hardly any negotiation with those people. So long violence continues and they consider that we have yielded to this violence, there cannot be any negotiation. The situation has developed in this way due to the uncompromising demand of the Naga National Council for absolute independence of Naga Hills. In pursuance of this demand the extremist Naga Leaders have adopted means rising in a crescendo from agitation and meetings, so called plebiscite to civil disobedience, violence, arson, loot, murder and terrorisation of innocent people on a full scale and organised armed guerilla activities to terrorise the loyalist section or those who oppose them in their objective of independence through violence.

The Governor in his address has given a brief account of the violent method adopted by the hostiles and heinous crimes committed against their fellow Nagas to achieve political objective.

Sir, a reign of terror has been let loose in the Naga Hills. Before we restore law and order how can we protect the innocent people there and how can there be an atmosphere for peaceful negotiations conducive to the settlement of the Naga problem ? I leave the answer to the hon. Members.

Their objective is to achieve their independence by violence. The Governor has given in his address a large number of instances. As many as 240 persons were killed by the hostiles and the majority of these unfortunate people were the Nagas, their own fellow citizens. Hon. Members will also recall the brutal murder of T. Sakhrie who was one among the responsible elements to stand against Phizo in his demand for independence through violence and who was organising a counter movement against the agitation of Phizo to achieve independence through violence. That was why he was kidnapped and

brutally murdered, hacked to death. And why was that done? It was with the intention of striking terror into the minds of the people so that no one can do or say anything against Phizo. I am just placing before the House the nature of Phizo; is he a man to be believed or not? This murder was committed to strike terror in the minds of the people who joined the counter movement organised by T. Sakhrie. When that counter movement gained ground, a large number of Gaonburas, Dobashis and other villagers were murdered. When Phizo saw that he was losing his leadership, he took this desperate action of kidnapping, killing and exciting people to violence.

(At this stage the Speaker re-entered the Chamber and the Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair).

I am giving you a few more instances in this connection. In a village called Thebopisima out of 60 male members of two *khels* who were loyal to the Government, 45 were hacked to death with axes and their bodies or whatever remained of them were thrown into the gorges. Not content with that, the hostiles forcibly took away the wives of the murdered men to their camp for forced labour. Can such dastardly crimes be committed by any sane or sensible man even for political ends? And then, an Assistant Surgeon at Phek was kidnapped on his way to Kohima. He was first shot and then brutally beaten for serving the people in his capacity as a Government doctor. Out of 100 Dobashis and Gaonburas, a large number were kidnapped, held in detention and many were brutally tortured so as to make them invalid for years to come. Government have never been averse to a peaceful settlement nor shut the door for negotiation provided the extremist element gave up their agitation for independence and abandon the use of violence to achieve their objective. A few instances of our efforts are placed before the House to show what efforts have been made in this connection.

Everyone knows that our Prime Minister who is most sympathetic towards the aspirations of the tribal people and who is the best person to negotiate and discuss for solution of such matters, visited Assam in 1951 and I appointed an interview for Phizo and his group for a discussion with him. That interview took place. A deputation of the Naga National Council met the Prime Minister on 28th December 1951: he tried for three hours to impress on the extremist Naga leaders to see reason and to give up their agitation and demand for independence. I am going to read an extract of what the Prime Minister told the deputationists towards the end of his discussion wherein he

has laid down the policy that we were pursuing. The Prime Minister told that delegation—firstly, “That no part of India as constituted today including the Naga Hills can be separated from India”—I think everyone of the hon. Members in this House will agree with that principle. Secondly, “No people whoever they may be, can be exploited by any other people”, thirdly, “In particular areas which have their own special culture and traditions, etc., there can and will be no outside interference with the customs, usages of the people, and their development will be along the way best suited to their genius and culture.” Every citizen of India has his individual freedom. But in areas with a special culture, particularly in the backward areas inhabited by Tribal people, safeguards have been provided to prevent exploitation of the backward people by the comparatively more advanced sections. The Prime Minister was personal'y convinced that it would be completely wrong to interfere with such tribal customs and usages. They were a separate cultural group, and therefore, should have the fullest freedom to live according to their own ways. The rest of the people of India and the Government would only help them to develop in their own ways. The Nagas should realise that the tendency all over the world is for the formation of larger groups and federations, if not for any other purpose, at least for self-protection. It amazed the Prime Minister to find the Nagas suggesting a reversal of the process of history, namely secession of a small strip of territory from the Indian Union and its becoming completely independent. If there were genuine grievances they could be redressed. The entire approach suggested by the Nagas in the memorandum was unreal and wrong. Asking for independence and separate sovereign Naga State was like asking for the Moon. He wanted them to progress in their own way, according to their genius and culture. He would help them in their development without in the least interfering with their ways. Further he said that it was impossible to conceive of a strip of territory forming part of the Indian Union severing itself from the Union and becoming completely independent. The Naga demand for independence was, therefore, something totally inconceivable. But he could certainly understand freedom for the Nagas to lead their own lives.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Charrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : May we know from where the Chief Minister is reading ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): I am reading from the Assembly proceedings of 9th March 1954. The hon. Member may remember that I made a statement on the floor of the House in this connection.

Now, the Prime Minister assured that Naga land belonged to the Nagas and to nobody else. India belonged to everyone, including the Nagas. Government would ensure that no improper interference take place in Naga land and provide adequate safeguards against exploitation of the Nagas by any other section of the people. As a matter of fact the allotment and distribution of land will be the responsibility of the representatives of the Nagas themselves. The Prime Minister assured the deputationists that he was prepared to consider any proposal for Naga autonomy—cultural, social, economic, political or financial. But it was impossible for him to consider a matter which were outside his consideration, *i. e.*, beyond the purview of the Constitution, beyond his powers to allow the Nagas to disintegrate. He wanted the Naga deputationists to tell the Nagas, that so far as the Government and the people of India were concerned, they wanted the Nagas to develop without the least interference from any quarter and wanted to help them in that development. The Government and the people of India wanted the Nagas to be free. But independence for the Nagas was impossible and inconceivable.

“After all that has been said, what more powers you expect to be given to the Nagas? What more steps can be taken to remove their misgivings, if any still is there?”

Is there a single responsible person in the country who would agree that a section of our own people, our own brethren in the Naga Hills should be allowed to break away from the Indian Union, because some of the misguided leaders demand it? We all want a peaceful settlement on the basis of unity and integrity of India, and that has been our policy.

Then you all remember that a party of the Naga National Council consisting of about nine Angami Nagas, one Sema Naga and one Ao Naga moved from place to place and from one end of Assam to the other when various parties were vying with each other to contact them, and the result was that these members of the so-called good-will delegation on behalf of the Naga National Council took full advantage of the platforms and opportunities given and arrangements made by different parties to speak in support of their

demand for independence and also to carry on anti-Indian propaganda throughout Assam. The members of the District Councils and other tribal leaders in Assam advised them to give up their absurd demand for independence. None of the parties could persuade them to give up their demand for independence and the contacts made by the various parties left no impression in the minds of members of this delegation. These contacts produced no results and there was no change in their anti-Indian attitude and in their outlook claiming independence.

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Whether the Chief Minister met this delegation or not?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): It was not necessary for me to meet the delegation as I knew what their demand was.

I propose to read a portion of my speech delivered on the 12th March, 1956 which will clearly indicate that these extremist elements are not likely to budge an inch from the demand for independence or show readiness to lay down arms and that they are not amenable to reason, and that they consider our leniency and offer of settlement as weakness, and that under the garb of non-violence they organise violence and commit acts of violence.

Hon. Members may know that when violence was being committed in different parts of Naga Hills, I called Phizo and his group to meet me in Shillong and in August, 1955 Zapu Phizo along with five others met me at Shillong and at that time I confronted him that when he and his party claimed to remain non-violent but in front of their nose violence was being committed, why should they not give something in writing that he and his party were remaining non-violent and they did not believe in violence? Being cornered with this situation they signed the following statement. I am reading this statement from my speech given on 12th March, 1956—

“We are exercising great restraint in dealing with these violent people. Hon. Members may remember that in August last Zapu Phizo along with five others made a signed statement to the following effect:—

The declared policy of the Naga National Council is of non-violence, and we the undersigned reiterate the same and condemn any violence that has been committed in different

parts of the Naga Hills District by some miscreants. We assure the Government of Assam and of India and remind the Nagas that whoever indulges in any acts of violence, does so against the best interests of the Naga people, and we appeal to those who have resorted to violence to desist from use of violence and we also appeal to the people in general for preservation of law and order and to help the administration in restoring peace and order." "Our policy is non-violence and as such we are following a most liberal policy towards these people in spite of the greatest provocations. Our aim is to win their hearts by service. Had Phizo committed such anti-State activities in any other country, he would have been put under arrest and executed. Here so long as they were non-violent, we allowed them to carry on these activities, but to show them the correct way. So, in August last when I received a telegram from Shri Phizo asking me to allow him to come and state his view points, I at once agreed to meet him and discuss with him. I wanted to pin him down to the statement and that signed statement was translated into different languages—I mean into the different dialects of the Naga Hills—and they were circulated among the people of the Naga Hills District. Obviously Phizo did not like this and he came to me and asked me why I had allowed them to be distributed to the people of the Naga Hills. I explained to him that it was a translation of their signed statement; so he had nothing to object". Further I asked him if there was any mistake in the translation. He told me there was no mistake. Then I asked him why did he object the circulation of such correct translations to which he did not give me any reply. So I told him there was nothing to object.

"Sometime after a document came into possession and the contents of the whole thing cannot be disclosed. There it is found that he is trying to negotiate and conspire with some of his comrades to get arms and ammunition to fight against the established Government and in that letter it is stated that if he got sufficient arms and ammunition, it would not only be possible for him to "liberate" the Naga Hills district, but also to conquer Shillong.

Sir, "under the circumstances, is there any alternative for any responsible Government but to act with determination and firmness for ensuring national security, national unity and for the welfare of the ordinary men and women of Naga Hills and for the protection of their lives and properties from the violent activities of these hostile elements? The Government as will appear have acted with great deal of restraint as they consider that they are not at war but are dealing with those persons who have been committing heinous crimes like murder, arson on the fellow Nagas".

Now Sir, my Friends will be surprised how a handful of persons can continue this struggle. I request the hon. Members to refer to the case of Malaya, where a handful of people operating in deep jungle terrains and high hills, have continued a guerilla warfare for personal end by preying on unguarded villages. Sir, it is not unknown to the Members that in the 4,000 square miles of Naga Hills there are more than 400 villages completely isolated from motorable roads and it is not possible to place armed forces or military in every village. So, when the hostile elements see that a village is not properly guarded they terrorise the people in such villages and commit all kinds of arsons, dacoities and murders, in order that they may be able to get their supplies from such unguarded villages and continue their depredations.

Till recently steps were not taken to isolate the misguided hostile elements who use to secure food and ration and recruit fresh youngmen by threats of violence. It has so long been possible for the hostiles to support themselves and continue their illegal activities by securing their supplies by violent methods involving murder, dacoity, etc. Recently, however, as indicated in Governor's Address steps have been taken for regrouping of isolated villages and screening of suspected hostiles returning to villages with a view to isolate them and prevent them from securing ration and fresh recruits from the villagers. As a result of these steps we have achieved definite results and have been able to isolate the hostiles and cut off their supplies and rations. Due to the pressure of the military and other forces and cutting off of supplies of the hostiles, the whole Kanayaks, Phoms and nearly more than half of Aos, large sections of Northern and Southern Angamis, a section of the Lothas and the entire section of Upper Zeliangs have recently surrendered their hostiles with arms.

So, Sir, the entire villages combined themselves to fight against the gangsters and other hostile activities. Sir, Phizo's relatives and members of his family who surrendered recently were taken for shelter to Kohima. The Gaonburas of that village told them that if they wanted to remain in that village they must surrender their arms and ammunitions and that they must give a solemn declaration that they would not bring about any other troubles to that village. In this case, Sir, none of them was arrested by the Deputy Commissioner but the villagers of Kohima would not allow them to remain at Kohima because Sakhrie, who was a resident of Kohima had been murdered in consequence of the cult of violence preached, many women

had been widowed and children rendered fatherless. It was likely that further troubles will be brought to the village of Kohima by the presence of Phizo's family. Further vengeance according to tribal custom may descend on them if compensation according to tribal custom was not paid. The villagers therefore did not want them to stay in Kohima and they were removed to their own village Khonoma for shelter. What is the position then—almost all of them are exposed to such hostile activities of Phizo and his gangsters, naturally they had to be protected from such acts of oppression from the others and these people are under the protection of the Government.

Sir, there are clear indications that the villagers are anxious for the restoration of normal conditions as they now realise that the hostiles' violent activities are at the root of their troubles.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): On a point of information, Sir. We are having impression from the statement of Chief Minister that most of the villagers are eager for keeping law and order and all these things. The hostilities are limited. I want to know the approximate number of hostiles and peaceful citizens.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, I request the hon. Member to hear me patiently.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Sir, we want the approximate number.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI : No, I won't give, please listen me first.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Sir, the information is that half of it is wrong. Let the Chief Minister give the correct information. Shall we have to conceal the facts and figures before the House? Sir, we have been listening the Chief Minister for the last five years,

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI : Sir, besides batches of liberal groups including the Gaonburas and village elders are contacting the hostiles in their hideouts to persuade them to abandon the futile method of violence and to surrender themselves with arms, and in many instances they have succeeded in securing surrenders of hostile with arms, and to help the authorities in restoring law and order. Generally

speaking there is every indication that large sections of the hostile elements also have begun to realise the futility of continuing these lawless violent activities, as they think that no good can come out from pursuing these violent methods. The mass of the villagers generally are tired of the harassment due to the illegal activities of the hostiles leading to raids of villages and wish to be left in peace, free from harassment and molestation of the hostiles descending upon them for money, food and other supplies, and these villagers are now helping the armed forces in securing surrender of the hostiles or in isolating them and co-operating with the authorities in restoring law and order. It is evident from the increased demand from villagers for enlisting as Special Constables which we have raised and armed to protect their lives and properties and to beat back the hostile raiders in co-operation with the armed forces. There is also indication that even the hard core amongst the hostiles are feeling the pinch of the want of supplies, food, etc., because of armed operation and pressure by armed forces and denial of supplies made more effective by regrouping of villages. This pressure from all sides is proposed to be continued with vigour without any relaxation until the hostile elements fully realise that the armed forces are sufficiently strong to deal with the guerilla activities of the hostiles and to protect lives and properties of loyal villagers and abandon their violent activities as futile in presence of the armed forces, and their absurd demand for independence and surrender themselves with arms and ammunitions to the authorities.

Recently Gaonburas and village elders and other leading men of different Naga tribes have approached Government for liberalising terms of pardon to the misguided Naga hostiles still in jungle so that they may persuade larger number of them to surrender with arms and resume their peaceful activities in their respective villages. It has further been represented by them that many young Nagas who were misguided in joining the hostiles in jungles and committing acts of violence, are tired of such a life and are desirous of giving up violence and of returning to their home to resume their normal and peaceful life.

Government do not propose to be vindictive, but want to be merciful to those youngmen who have been misguided, and are prepared to offer amnesty to all those who were misguided and joined the campaign of violence and fought against Government forces, if they surrender immediately with

arms in their possession and give solemn assurance that they will not revert to violence in future, and the village Gaonburas, village elders of the respective tribes take the responsibility of restraining them from reverting to violent activities in future. For crimes committed against their fellow Nagas, if they secure pardon of the affected persons or their families according to tribal custom, Government may not proceed against those persons also. Government, however, cannot deny justice to any one who demands it for grievous crimes done to him.

If law and order is restored and an atmosphere of good-will prevails and the demand for independence is given up by all sections of the people in the Naga Hills including the hostile elements, Government are prepared to consult all shades of public opinion in the Naga Hills including the Gaonburas and village elders as to the nature of the administrative set-up that may be most suitable to the people of the Naga Hills under the Constitution of the Indian Republic.

With that object in view, I appeal to all the misguided youngmen who have resorted to violence to abandon the method of violence, as it is against the interest of the people of the Naga Hills and give up the agitation for independence. Every people living in the Naga Hills is as independent and enjoys the same rights and privileges as any other citizen of the Indian republic. There is an abundance of good-will of the leaders and people all over the country to render all possible help in building up a brighter and more prosperous Naga Hills and to allow them to continue to enjoy the age-old rights and privileges undisturbed. I request the people of the Naga Hills to avail of this abundance of good-will and join the co-operative efforts in developing the Naga Hills and lead it to prosperity as an integral part of Indian Republic and also of Assam.

Now, again reverting to the problems of the Autonomous Hills districts, this Government and also the Government of India fully appreciate the difficulties and the adverse effects of Partition on the economy of the border areas of the autonomous districts, particularly of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Garo Hills and the Mizo District. There is no doubt that the people of these areas were most adversely affected and their whole economy was upset due to stoppage of trade with Pakistan. But it is gratifying to note that Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy admitted that the Government of Assam made the best efforts to remove the hardships and

difficulties of the border people. As Rev. Roy himself admits, immediately after the Partition when the people were very hard hit economically due to dislocation of trade relations with Pakistan, immediate arrangements for air-lifting of oranges and other agricultural produce of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills were made from Shella to Calcutta. This had to a great extent relieved the position, although at the beginning because of the novelty of the arrangement itself, things did not move in the way it was expected. But the position improved in subsequent years, and the necessity of air-lifting has been reduced considerably. It may be known to Rev. Roy that last year there was no demand for taking oranges to Calcutta because of good prices that was obtained in Chera-punji and in other neighbouring places. In fact, at the instance of this Government, a high powered Committee was set up by the Government of India for a special study of the conditions of the people of the border areas of the State, headed by the then Home Secretary, Shri A. V. Iyenger, and in accordance with their recommendations, various schemes have been taken up to relieve the distress of the people of the border areas and to rehabilitate them wherever possible in consultation with the representatives of those areas. These schemes were implemented partly out of the resources available to this Government under Art. 275 of the Constitution of India and partly out of the resources of this State.

Captain WILLIAM A. SANGMA: [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I know, Sir, what are the schemes taken up by Government on the recommendations of this High Power Committee?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): I am sorry, Sir, at this moment I cannot afford to give full details of these schemes as I have got to finish my speech at 3 O' clock. But I propose to take up this matter again at the time of the Budget discussions. But I can say this much that several schemes, such as the construction of roads, rehabilitation of 500 families of the border areas in Bhoi area, rice subsidy scheme, etc., were taken up. In the Garo Hills of course no such scheme was taken up as we did not receive any proposal from that district. For this Rehabilitation Scheme in Bhoi area, a total of Rs.950 per family—Rs.450 given as grant and Rs.500 as interest free loan—was granted besides granting agricultural loan according

to the requirements of the cultivator families to help in their cultivation. Due to the special conditions of the hill districts, it has also been decided to initiate six intensive Development Blocks in the autonomous districts involving an expenditure of Rs.27 lakhs per Block during the Plan period. One of the Blocks, as you know, has already been established at Baghmara. Special emphasis has been given in the intensive Development Block in the Garo Hills, to the organisation of cottage industries, land reclamation and development of agriculture. In the current year also under Art. 275 Plan we have provisions for more than two lakhs for helping the people in the border areas for their economic rehabilitation. For the Jowai Intensive Development Block which is also on the border a sum of Rs.120,000 has been provided for such works as irrigation, land reclamation, etc., etc. In addition to these, arrangements for providing free studentships to students of the border areas together with liberal provision for scholarships and stipends have been made. As I do not have sufficient time at my disposal, I do not propose to give here detailed figures. It has also been proposed to start an economic survey of the border area with the assistance of expert staff from the Department of Statistics and in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner and public representative by random sample survey. Beside that a large number of scholarships were awarded for training in fruit preservation and other sectors of cottage industries. Many have already received training on these lines and have been employed or are carrying on various cottage industries.

Now, I draw the attention of Rev. Nichols-Roy. Recently on the basis of a report from a village leader of Roubah he submitted a representation and on receipt of this, I immediately asked the Deputy Commissioner to get an enquiry made. It was reported in the representation that some people died for want of food. The enquiring officer along with that village leader made a house to house enquiry and it was found that there was no death in the locality and it was also found that a person with 20 members of his family who was alleged to have gone without food for several days, had a paddy field and sufficient amount of food to take and as such he also entertained the enquiring officer and the village leader with tea at his house.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I know, Sir, who was the enquiring officer?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): He was the local Sub-Deputy Collector. This shows that often exaggerated and misleading reports are made.

In connection with the development programme in the hills we propose to have an Advisory Board at the State level. At present the procedure is that all the development schemes are prepared at the instance of the Development Board in each subdivisional and district headquarters and in those Development Boards the Chief Executive Member and other members of the District Council and also the local M. L. As. are members. All the proposals and schemes submitted by such Development Board are examined and considered by the Development Department. Then I call a meeting of the tribal M.L.As. and also the Executive Members and after discussing matters we come to a final decision. In order to avoid delay in this procedure, I am proposing to form a standing committee consisting of the representatives of the hills and plains tribal and also of the public workers who take interest in the welfare of the tribal areas, and they will sit at least twice a year to consider all the proposals concerning development. The existing procedure of consulting M. L. As. and Subdivisional Development Boards and the Chief Executive Members of the District Councils will be followed which is of great advantage. It will be my endeavour to secure closer co-operation of the representative, publicmen and the workers. The State Advisory Board will consist of public representatives and workers, tribal and non-tribal of the hills and plains areas so that the development schemes can be studied in a co-ordinated and integrated manner with a view to foster an unity of outlook for the development of the different tribal areas of the State, broadly keeping in view the requirements of the State and the country as a whole. The State Government propose to have a separate board for Scheduled Castes which will be in line with the board constituted by the Government of India.

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : On a point of information, Sir, will the Government try to find market for the produce made by our interior tribal people ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : We have been trying our best to do so and to that effect, we are constructing motorable roads.

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM : That does not help them. Their difficulty is that they cannot find market for their produce and Government should try to do something in this respect.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI : I am quite prepared to help them and to remove their difficulties in any way possible. I will discuss this matter later outside the floor of the House.

Capt. Williamson Sangma has drawn my attention that in spite of the development works taken up in hills there is some feeling of subordination in the minds of the hill people. I want to understand why that feeling has been created in spite of the fact that there is a declared policy of this Government for the development and welfare of the tribal people. I shall try to remove that misunderstanding and wrong impression if they are due to any action of the Government and see that such things do not happen any more in future. I have, on different occasions, declared our policy that the promotion of the welfare of the tribal people and the development of the backward areas have always been a cause dear to the heart of the Father of the Nation, and an integral part of the constructive programme of the Indian National Congress under his leadership. The Government of Assam as well as the Government of India will ever endeavour to achieve that objective in every possible way. Specially for myself I consider the development of the tribal areas a most sacred duty which vests in me as the leader of the present Government, and I am determined to work unceasingly and discharge this duty to the best of my ability. In this onerous task I seek your fullest and unstinted co-operation. It will also be for us, the majority in the House, to remove any suspicion and misgivings that may be lingering in the minds of anyone living in the hills and it will be our duty to bring them closer together by our good will for this joint endeavour of building New Assam. The overwhelming desire of the people of Assam is for the plains-men and hills-men to march hand in hand towards national unity and progress and a higher life for all. I can rightly expect that our brethren in the hills will appreciate and accept this goodwill of the majority people that the path of progress and self-realisation of the hill people does not lie in insolation but in the unity with the rest of the State of India. With such good and cordial feeling and mutual understanding I think all our problems and misunderstandings will vanish. With that outlook I hope I will get the co-operation of every one present here in this House and if we work together for this objective I am sure there will be no misunderstanding or misapprehension in the minds of any people in the hills and plains.

With these words, Sir, I conclude and do not like to continue any further and encroach on the time of the Finance Minister who will shortly deliver his budget speech.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): What about the primary teachers?

Mr. SPEAKER: This matter can be discussed when the Budget demand for Education is placed before the House.

Now, we have the Motion and the nine amendments before the House. I would like to ascertain from the hon. Movers of the amendments whether they are willing to withdraw them and, if so, whether they have got permission of the House to do so.

(Nobody made any response)

Then I shall have to put the amendments to vote.

I would first put the question in respect of amendment No.1 moved by Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.

The question is, "That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's address moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das, the following be added :—

'But this Assembly regrets the address of the Governor does not indicate how financial help will be rendered to the people of the border area who have been reduced to a very distressing abject poverty due to the partition of India, and also to some of those who have been compelled to leave their hearth and home to seek shelter and to find means to maintain themselves in other parts of the district' "

The Assembly divided with the following result :—

Ayes—28

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Birendra Kumar Das. | 12. Maulavi Jahan Uddin Ahmed. |
| 2. Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya. | 13. Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy. |
| 3. Shri Brojo Monon Roy. | 14. U Jor Manik Siem of Myliem. |
| 4. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya. | 15. Shri Khagendra Nath Barbaruah. |
| 5. Shri Ghanashyam Talukder. | 16. Pu Lalmawia. |
| 6. Shri Gopesh Namasudra. | 17. Shri Larsingh Khyriem. |
| 7. Shri Hamdhon Mohan Haplangbar. | 18. Shri Mathias Tudu. |
| 8. Shri Hareswar Goswami. | 19. Shri Mody K. Marak. |
| 9. Shri Harrison Momin. | 20. Shri Nilmoney Borthakur. |
| 10. Mr. Henry Cotton. | 21. Shri Pakhirai Deka. |
| 11. Shri Hiralal Patwary. | 22. Shri Prabhatnarayan Chaudhury. |
| | 23. Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua. |
| | 24. Shri Ranendra Mohan Das. |
| | 25. Maulavi Sahadat Ali. |
| | 26. Dr. Srihari Das. |
| | 27. Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed. |
| | 28. Capt. Williamson A. Sangma. |

Noes—69

1. Shri Bishnuram Medhi.
2. Shri Siddhinath Sarma.
3. Shri Motiram Bora.
4. Shri Rupnath Brahma.
5. Shri Debeswar Sarmah.
6. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi.
7. Shri Hareswar Das.
8. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury.
9. Shri Chatrasing Teron.
10. Shri Purnananda Chetia.
11. Shri Mohi Kanta Das.
12. Shri Girindra Nath Gogoi.
13. Mrs. Usha Barthakur.
14. Dr. Ghanashyam Das.
15. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika.
16. Shri Khelhoshe Sema.
17. Mr. A. Thanglura.
18. Shri Abdul Hamid Choudhury.
19. Maulana Abdul Jalil Chowdhury.
20. Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumder.
21. Shri Baikuntha Nath Das.
22. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhan.
23. Shri Bishnu Lal Upadhyaya.
24. Shri Biswadev Sarma.
25. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika.
26. Shri Dandi Ram Dutta.
27. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika.
28. Shri Dhirsingh Deuri.
29. Shri Durgeswar Saikia.
30. Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma.
31. Shri Gouri Shankar Roy.
32. Shri Hakim Chandra Rabha.
33. Shri Harinarayan Baruah.
34. Shri Hem Chandra Chakravarty.
35. Shri I. Chubatemsu Ao.
36. Mrs. Jyotsna Chanda.
37. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala.
38. Shri Khagendra Nath Nath.
39. Maulavi Kobad Husain Ahmed.
40. Prof. (Shrimati) Komol Kumari Barua.
41. Swami Krishnananda Brahmachari.
42. Shri Lalit Kumar Daley.
43. Shri Lila Kanta Borah.
44. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta.
45. Shri Mahadev Das.
46. Maulavi Mahammad Idris.

Noes—(concl'd.)

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| 47. Shri Manik Chandra Das. | 58. Maulavi Rahimuddin Ahmed. |
| 48. Shri Mohananda Bora. | 59. Shri Rajendra Nath Barua. |
| 49. Shri Mohidhar Pegoo. | 60. Shri Ramnath Sarma. |
| 50. Shri Molia Tati. | 61. Dr. Ram Prasad Chaubey. |
| 51. Shri Nanda Kishore Sinha. | 62. Shri Sai Sai Terang. |
| 52. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma. | 63. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami. |
| 53. Maulavi Nurul Islam. | 64. Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi. |
| 54. Shri Omco Kumar Das. | 65. Shri Satsuo Angami. |
| 55. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain. | 66. Shri Surendra Nath Das. |
| 56. Shri Radha Charan Chaudhury. | 67. Shri Tajammul Ali Barlaskar. |
| 57. Shri Radha Kishan Khemka. | 68. Shri Tamijuddin Prodhani. |
| | 69. Shri Tankeswar Chetia. |

(The Amendment was negatived).

(After a pause)

Mr. SPEAKER : I will now put the question in respect of Amendment No.2 moved by Shri Hiralal Patwary.

The question is, "That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's address moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das, the following be added :—

But regrets that the Governor's address throws no light to the measure taken for free and compulsory education in the State and the lot of the Primary and Aided High School Teachers.

The Assembly regrets that the Governor's address makes no mention of the widespread cattle diseases in the State.

The Assembly regrets that the Governor's address says nothing about the Prohibition of liquor in the State.

The Governor's address has not given any light regarding the investigation of the Bhairabkundu Hydro Electric Project in the Darrang district, Tezpur".

(The Amendment was negatived).

(After a pause)

Mr. SPEAKER : I shall now put the question in respect of Amendment No.3 moved by Shri Prabhat Narayan Chaudhury.

The question is, "That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's address moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das, the following be added :—

But it is regretted that the Governor's address fails to give any clear indication of measures solving the various problems of the State particularly in spheres of unemployment and land which are the most burning problems of the day".

(The Amendment was negatived).

(After a pause)

Mr. SPEAKER : I now put the question in respect of Amendment No.4 moved by Shri Nilmoney Borthakur.

The question is, "That at the end of the Motion relating to Governor's address moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das, the following be added :—

But it is regretted that the Governor's address did not contain proper appreciation of the burning problems of the State with regard to food, land settlement, refugee rehabilitation, agriculture, education, rapid industrialisation, and the problems of the Autonomous Districts, especially the Naga Hills District, and has failed to enunciate concretely the measures for solving the above problems without which the basis of a happy prosperous and united Assam cannot be laid."

A summary division was taken inside the House by asking the Members to rise in their places with the following results :—

Ayes—28

Noes—68

(The Amendment was negatived).

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Sir, this being very important amendments, we want that the names of those hon. Members who support them should be recorded.

Mr. SPEAKER : Then I will have to ask the Secretary to take down the names of those Members who are in favour of this Amendment.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Any way as you like Sir, but we want the names to be recorded.

(The names of 28 Members who were in favour of this Amendment were the same in the division of Amendment No.1).

(After a pause)

Mr. SPEAKER : I will now put the question in respect of Amendment No.5 moved by Shri Birendra Kumar Das.

The question is, "That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's address moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das, the following be added :—

But regrets that the Governor's address makes no mention about the failure of the Government to improve the condition of the Plains Tribals, who are educationally, financially and socially very backward in the State".

(The Amendment was negatived).

(After a pause)

Mr. SPEAKER : I now put the question in respect of Amendment No.6 moved by Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed.

The question is, "That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's address moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das, the following be added :—

But regrets that the Governor's address makes no mention of the following matters—

1. About the bungling of the Naga situation by the present Government and concealing the true facts from the people.

2. About the deteriorating food situation in the State resulting in semi-famine condition in certain areas.

3. About the large scale eviction of the people from various areas without offering the people affected with alternate land.

4. About the difference of the Government to apply without reservation Goalpara Tenancy Act, with necessary amendments in the Goalpara District after the abolition of Zamindary.

5. Large scale unemployment of educated youths all over the State.

6. The havoc created by wrong alignment of embankment creating drought in certain areas and flood in others.

7. Failure to convert annual pattas into periodic ones.

8. Failure to give lands and remission of land revenue to the people affected by erosion of rivers and failure to give lands to the landless people.

9. To stop corruption and redtapism in the State.

10. Use of official powers in the last General Election.

11. Failure to rehabilitate the displaced Muslims."

A summary division was taken inside the House by asking the Members to rise in their places with the following result:—

Ayes—28

Noes—68

(The Motion was negatived).

Mr. SPEAKER : I will now put the question in respect of Amendment No. 7 moved by Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah.

The question is, "That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's address moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das, the following be added:—

'But regret that—

(a) the Address underlines only the strong-arm policy of Government and fails to indicate any willingness on the part of the Government for a peaceful political settlement of the Naga problem ;

(b) the Address shows a lack of appreciation of the gravity of the food situation now prevailing in the State ;

(c) the Address entirely fails to mention the grave question of unemployment or any policy regarding its solution ;

(d) the Address fails to note the growing sense of frustration and accumulation of grievances among the Tribal people particularly in the hills ;

(e) the Address fails to mention the necessity of amending the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution;

(f) the Address fails to record any significant concrete achievements in respect of establishment of industries in Assam.

(g) the Address does not mention the desirability of integrating in Assam State the various contiguous areas within the geographical limits of Assam ;

(h) the Address takes no note of the failure of the employers to implement the Plantation Labour Act ;

(i) the Address takes no note of the public demand for the nationalisation of Plantations in order to augment the revenues of the State.

This Assembly, therefore, do request the Governor and through him the Government of Assam to revise the policies in the light of the above amendments."

A summary division was taken inside the House by asking the Members to rise in their places with the following result :—

Ayes—28

Noes—69

(The Amendment was lost.)

(After a pause)

Mr. SPEAKER : I will now put the question in respect of Amendment No.8 moved by Captain Williamson A. Sangma.

The question is, "That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's address moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das, the following be added :—

'But this Assembly regrets that the speech of the Governor does not envisage a policy whereby the various important problems of the people of the Autonomous District will be solved'."

A summary division was taken inside the House by asking the Members to rise in their places with the following result :—

Ayes—28

Noes—69

(The Amendment was lost.)

(After a pause)

Mr. SPEAKER : I will now put the question in respect of Amendment No.9 moved by Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya.

The question is, "That at the end of the Motion relating to the Governor's Address moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das, the following be added:—

1. But this Assembly regrets that there is no mention of retrenched labour in the tea garden area, who are experiencing great difficulties for want of employment and are facing starvation.

2. That the money spent in relief and rehabilitation of refugees has not helped them in any way due to corruption in administration and lands allotted to them, in many cases, are also not suitable for cultivation being Tillah or low lands. The present condition of the refugees is very pitiable and it needs immediate attention of the Government".

(The Motion was negatived)

(After a pause)

Mr. SPEAKER : Then I come to the original Motion of thanks to the Governor's address, moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das—

"That the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House assembled on June 8, 1957".

(The Motion was adopted.) (Loud applause).

Presentation of the Budget for 1957-58 and Budget speech by Finance Minister

Mr. SPEAKER : Now the Finance Minister will have to present the Budget,

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Sir, we are prepared to sit beyond 5 p.m. to finish the budget speech.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Finance Minister has to present the budget and he has to finish it. As a matter of fact, the practice in Parliament is that the Budget is presented at the end of the day and the Members continue to sit till it is completed. Now, in this House, I should like to be guided by the House.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : We will sit till the end of the speech.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : Sir, May I know whether time for discussion of the Budget by the Members will be extended ?

Mr. SPEAKER : I will place it before the House tomorrow because for any extension in respect of sitting of the House, I would like to be guided by the sense of the House.

Now, the Finance Minister will present the Budget.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Finance Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to present the Budget Estimates for 1957-58. A provisional budget for the same year was presented to the House in December last by my predecessor who obtained a vote on account for the first three months of the year. The present estimates are the final budget estimates for the current year.

Before discussing the details of the estimates, I propose to review briefly the economic and political situation which provides the background to the budget proposals. The First Five Year Plan of the State involving an outlay of Rs.20.5 crores ended on March 31, 1956. The object of this development programme was to correct the imbalance in the economy and to initiate institutional changes which would facilitate more rapid advance in the future. It was expected that as a result of implementation of the Plan the shortages in supply of food and raw materials which were obstructing smooth functioning of the system would be reduced and the economy would be correctly poised for a higher developmental effort during the next five year period. The results achieved so far have, however, belied most of these hopes. Our economy is still under exceptional strain and carry unmistakable signs of imbalance in it, as at the beginning of the First Five Year Plan. This is evident from the general prices and the cost of living indices. The average index of wholesale prices in the State (base 1944=100) which

stood at 151·5 in 1955 rose to 174·0 in 1956. The trend in the current year is still upwards. The cost of living index of the general working class (base 1944=100) which stood at 111 in 1955 shot up to 123 in 1956 and the corresponding numbers of the rural population rose from 141·8 in 1955 to 144·5 in 1956. The retail price of rice in the urban centres which was Rs.16 per maund in 1955 rose to Rs.21·81 n. p. in December 1956 and Rs.23·19 n. p. in March 1957. The *per capita* income in our State rose by 5·5 per cent during the First Plan period as against 10·2 per cent for India as a whole. The State has still to import such necessities as foodgrains, pulses, sugar, cement, paper, etc., as in the past. These are unmistakable signs which indicate that we have not as yet been able to cover the lag in our economy and have still to make much leeway towards achieving self-sufficiency.

One of the essential conditions for smooth functioning of the economy is internal security. During the year under review the law and order situation in the State as a whole was normal excepting for the disturbances in the Naga Hills. As the hon. Members are aware, the operation against the Naga hostiles is still in progress. In the meantime the loyal Nagas who had to leave their hearth and home due to the depredations of the hostiles have returned and have been duly rehabilitated. They are co-operating with the Government in the restoration of law and order in the Naga Hills. Another encouraging development has been the decision of our Naga brethren to send their representatives to the Assembly. On behalf of the House, I welcome the Naga representatives to our midst and assure them our sympathetic co-operation in all matters. With the help of these patriotic leaders, we hope to arrive at a satisfactory solution of our difficulties and restore friendly relations with our comrades of the Naga Hills. Our policy towards our tribal brethren is one of goodwill and co-operation. It is our sincere desire that the people of the hills should be able to march abreast with the rest as citizens of free India. The goal of welfare State is a common goal. That our tribal brethren should be left behind while the rest of the population go forward cannot be viewed with equanimity. We shall not grudge the cost and effort that may be necessary to enable the tribes of the hills and the plains to attain that common goal. All that we desire is the fraternal co-operation of tribal brethren in this great enterprise of building a strong, united and prosperous Assam, as part of the larger Indian nation.

THE FIVE YEAR PLAN

The Second Five Year Plan of the State with an outlay of Rs. 57.93 crores has entered its second year. The Plan seeks to remove structural deficiencies in our economy and to raise productivity and employment. As the House is aware, ours is an underdeveloped economy with large reserves of man-power. In planning institutional changes and production methods, we have to give priority to schemes which hold larger employment potentialities. Our emphasis must therefore be on small but economic units whether it is agriculture or industry, as the employment potential of small units in the aggregate is large. At the same time we have to ensure to these small producers reasonable credit and marketing facilities so that they can function as efficient units. This is possible only through co-operative organisation. The Five Year Plan has been drawn up with these objects in view. It is gratifying to note that the Planning Commission has recognized the necessity of flexible planning by agreeing to adjustment of priorities within the Plan with reference to economic and financial trends, availability of transport, personnel and materials. We shall now be able to re-arrange priorities with closer reference to local conditions and requirements.

The Annual Plan for 1957-58 was discussed with the representatives of the Planning Commission and Central Ministries in January last. Planning Commission fixed the ceiling of Rs. 11.1 crores for the programme for 1957-58. The State will have to raise resources of the order of Rs. 3 crores for this programme. The balance will be available from the Centre as subsidies and loans according to the pattern of Central assistance fixed under different programmes. The break-up of current year's Plan expenditure is as follows—

Agriculture and Community Development (Excluding Panchayats).					Rs. 186 lakhs.	
National Extension and Community Projects					113	"
Irrigation and Power					74	"
Major Industries					55	"
Cottage Industries					35	"
Sericulture and Weaving...					26	"
Khadi and Village Industries Board					8	"
Transport and Communication					127	"
Social Services					463	"
Panchayats					49	"
Miscellaneous					21	"

In addition to these Plan schemes, provision has been made in the budget for new schemes amounting to Rs. 55,67,000.

AGRICULTURE AND LAND REFORMS

The agricultural programme of the State Government under the Second Five Year Plan was designed to achieve a production target of 2·3 lakh tons of foodgrains when the Plan was first drawn up. This target has since been raised and we are expected to produce 8·42 lakh tons of additional foodgrains during the Plan period. The total outlay provided for this programme is Rs.518·24 lakhs. The achievement of such a big target will not be possible without adequate land reforms, efficient land management, extensive and intensive cultivation and necessary co-operative ware-housing and marketing facilities to provide requisite incentive to the cultivator. We have abolished Zamindaris in the District of Goalpara and acquired the rights of the intermediaries below the proprietors. In the absence of records of rights the acquisition of the rights of other intermediaries in Goalpara and Karimganj has been delayed. To give greater security to tenants, the Adhjar Protection and Regulation Act of 1948 was amended in 1952. These measures are intended to increase the security of tenure and income of the actual tiller of the soil. But permanent solution of the food problem requires that the cultivator who has to depend for his living on the farm should have a sufficient holding also. As is well known to the hon. Members, the majority of our agricultural holdings are of uneconomic size. A survey of economic conditions in the State was carried out by the Statistics Department a few years back. The survey revealed that 36 per cent of the agricultural families in Darrang, 38 per cent in Sibsagar, 32 per cent in Lakhimpur, 31 per cent in Nowgong, 37 per cent in Kamrup, 31 per cent in Goalpara, 54 per cent in Cachar and 36 per cent in Mikir Hills own holdings less than 10 bighas in size. The average number of fragments per holding varies from 3·5 in Goalpara to 4·9 in Nowgong. Landless families form 19 per cent in Darrang, 12 per cent in Sibsagar, 16 per cent in Lakhimpur, 14 per cent in Nowgong, 18 per cent in Kamrup, 19 per cent in Goalpara, 13 per cent in Cachar and 15 per cent in Mikir Hills. One of the reasons for the progressive diminution of agricultural holdings in the State is the increasing pressure of population on land. The pressure has been growing continuously for the last few decades as a result of natural growth and of immigration. Partition has added substantially to the stream of immigration. A recent survey conducted by the Statistics Department has shown that 1,23,852 displaced families from East Pakistan have migrated to Assam to the end of January 1956. As the cultivable lands available in the

plains have practically been exhausted, the influx of refugees has added to the seriousness of our agrarian situation. In their anxiety to find land for the displaced persons, those affected by flood and erosion and indigenous landless cultivators, the State Government have requisitioned available surplus lands from tea grants. A ceiling has also been fixed on individual holdings. Grazing reserves covering an area of 2,85,463 bighas have been dereserved for settlement with the landless and flood-stricken people. In addition, important reclamation projects have been taken up in different districts for the benefit of landless cultivators. The Kaki Reclamation Scheme has been implemented and the Philobari Land Reclamation Scheme and the Falangani Land Reclamation Scheme are in progress. But all this has touched only the fringe of the problem and agricultural holdings have remained as small as before. Moreover, the holdings are not compact and labour and capital are being wasted in the cultivation of scattered fields. A beginning has been made in consolidation of holdings by stopping fragmentation under Section 36 of the Assam Rural Panchayat Act. But this is not enough and under the Second Five Year Plan steps are to be taken for consolidation of already fragmented holdings. This will need special legislation as it involves transfer of the people's rights over land. This matter bristles with difficulties. It is being examined with a view to draft a Bill suited to the peculiar conditions obtaining in this State.

The Planning Commission has recommended that Land Management Legislation should be undertaken laying down definite standards of cultivation and management. While such legislation is desirable in the interest of production, there are various conditions which must be ensured to make efficient management possible. The Government propose to examine the question of undertaking Land Management Legislation after more urgent reforms are completed.

Much importance is now being attached to organisation of Co-operative farming as a sure method for increasing the agricultural output of the country. Co-operative farming has produced revolutionary results in China and we can well take a lesson out of the progress made in that great country. But one may not be oblivious of the fact that conditions in India are different from those obtaining in China to-day. Co-operative farming can succeed here only when worked on voluntary basis without coercion of any form. Our traditions and customs and age-old agricultural practices cannot be changed overnight. We have no doubt to act with speed to

cover the lag, but what is more important, we have also in the words of our beloved Prime Minister, to take the people with us as co-pilgrims in our onward march to the cherished goal. Taking into consideration the local conditions, social customs, agricultural practices and laws relating to land tenure, Government have taken up land reforms to prepare the ground for Co-operative farming in the State. There are already about 120 Co-operative farms in Assam. But these require re-organisation with a new objective approach.

To help the agriculturist raise yield of the soil, Government have taken up 47 schemes of which 20 are continuing from the First Plan period and 27 are taken up under the Second Plan. These schemes relate to training in improved agricultural methods, research on better varieties of crops, introduction and popularisation of cash crops and improvement of marketing facilities. Special stress is to be laid on intensive methods of cultivation, such as the Japanese method and the use of manures and fertilizers. It is proposed to manufacture 1,20,000 tons of compost manure from village refuse and waste materials with the co-operation of villagers. The supply of ammonium sulphate at cost price and superphosphate at subsidised price has also been arranged for the use of the cultivators, although Government recommend more use of ordinary manure like cowdung and compost in preference to chemical fertilizers. For increasing supply of improved seeds a phased programme has been taken up, under which one seed farm is to be established in each N. E. S. Block within the first three years of the Plan. Each seed farm will provide the nucleus seeds for further multiplication through registered growers and co-operatives so that improved seeds may be available to all cultivators in course of the Plan period. Minor irrigation will continue to feature prominently in the programme of Agriculture Department. During 1956-57, 1200 such projects were planned and during 1957-58 another 1200 projects are proposed. These projects between them are likely to benefit a total area of 4,42,560 acres. In areas affected by floods and drought power pump sets have been introduced. During the First Five Year Plan, 235 pumping sets were obtained by the Department and made available to the public on hire at reasonable rates. As a result of the use of these sets, Boro cultivation was done over an area of 260 acres during 1955-56. Pumping sets have also been useful in drought affected Sali land and in renovation and reclamation of tanks and swamps. In the sub-montane belts where there is scarcity of water a deep tube well scheme has

been launched. During the first two years of the Plan about a dozen of these wells are expected to be installed. Besides intensifying efforts for the increase of food crops, the Department is also trying to encourage cultivation of cash crops like jute, sugarcane and cotton. Garden crops like pepper, cashew-nuts arecanuts, cocoanuts also provide a good income to the people and the Department is trying to popularise their cultivation. To encourage horticulture it is proposed to set up at least one nursery in each subdivision.

In the past activities of the Agriculture Department were confined mostly to plains. As the tribal people in the hills were accustomed to shifting cultivation, there was not much scope for introduction of modern methods of agriculture in these areas. Now our tribal brethren have begun to realise the harmful effects of shifting cultivation on the soil and they have evinced interest in settled cultivation. To help this development the Department of Agriculture has taken up a scheme of contour bunding. The Forest Department has opened demonstration centres for plantation of coffee, cashew-nuts and black-pepper as part of a programme for scientific control of shifting cultivation. The Agriculture Department is distributing improved seeds, fertilisers and pesticides in the tribal areas. Since, however, the hill population cannot be expected to be self-sufficient with their food crops, Government are now laying increasing emphasis on cash crops such as oranges, pine-apples, black-pepper and cashew-nuts, the last two being also foreign exchange earners. In pursuance of this policy, it is proposed to encourage cultivation of cash crops in the hills on co-operative basis with substantial Government aid or subsidy. A Fruit Preservation Scheme has already been launched for the benefit of the growers in the hills. At the same time, a marketing wing has been set up to organize marketing of oranges and pine-apples grown in the Mizo and Khasi Hills. These schemes will be implemented with greater expedition.

VILLAGE AND SMALL INDUSTRIES

The cottage industries occupy an important place in our rural economy. Important as the big industries are for all round development of a country, the level of standard of living in an under-developed State like ours where there is great pressure of population on land and no capital formation worth the name, depends largely on widespread and successful cottage industries alone. Being labour intensive they have a special role to play in the rationalisation of agriculture by

providing employment opportunities to the unemployed and the under-employed cultivators. By developing and processing the endi and the muga alone, Assam can earn a substantial amount of wealth as she enjoys almost unique position in these commodities. There are other crafts and arts practised by our villagers as part-time occupation. Techniques followed by our artisans are old and out of date. The level of efficiency and productivity is accordingly low and the earning of the worker is usually insufficient to support a family. It is highly desirable from the national point of view that these industries should flourish and expand. Therefore, it is the policy of the Government to actively organise and help village and small industries by introducing improved technique, giving financial aid, organizing marketing facilities and by encouraging adoption of co-operative methods. With a view to reviving and developing particular cottage industries in the villages or areas where they once flourished in the past, a survey will be taken up immediately.

Arrangements have been made for imparting training in 11 trades at the Cottage Industries Training Institute at Gauhati. Centres have also been organized for training in carpentry, blacksmithy, Wardha ghani, pottery, bee-keeping, etc. On successful completion of their training, the trainees will be helped with loans under the State Aid to Industries Act. To supply raw materials to artisans at reasonable rates and to market their products, a Cottage Industries Central Stores and Emporium has been set up at Gauhati. This scheme is estimated to cost Rs.23.83 lakhs. Another scheme taken up for the benefit of small scale industries is the establishment of an Industrial Estate and an Industrial Block at Gauhati. These schemes, when implemented, will provide common service facilities to the industrial units besides introducing uniform standard for their products and better marketing facilities. The scheme of Industrial Block was prepared by Japanese experts and is intended to utilise local raw materials like bamboo, cane and timber.

The State Khadi and Village Industries Board is a statutory body. It implements schemes approved by the All-India Board. During 1956-57, the Board received approval from the All-India Board to a large number of schemes and sanctions for loans and grants to the tune of Rs.20 lakhs. The Board has started 15 more Khadi Production Centres, 6 Sales Centres, a number of Khandesari Development Centres, 3 Ghanny Oil Model Centres, a Palm-gur making and a Bee-keeping centre.

To improve the quality of our mulberry silk, disease free seeds and grafts have been supplied to villagers. Mulberry cultivation has extended over an area of 1,750 acres. Nine thousand mulberry sapplings were imported from Japan for propagation of better crops. For the supply of muga seed cocoons two additional basic seed farms will be established at North Lakhimpur and Kokrajhar. A cocoon drying chamber will be set up at Sualkuchi. To assist Eri silk centres two additional nurseries are under construction. Handloom weavers are being organised on co-operative lines. There are now 713 Weavers' Co-operatives with a membership of 21,000. The Weavers and the Sericulturists are also helped with industrial loans to meet their requirements for production. There are 34 emporia run by the Department which provide marketing facilities. The Sericulture Training Class at Titabar and the Government Weaving Institute at Gauhati have been enlarged and upgraded for Diploma Courses. A scheme for establishing a spun silk mill has been approved by the Central Silk Board and arrangements are in hand for implementing the project at Jagi Road (Nowgong).

CO-OPERATION

The socialist pattern of society which we have adopted as our national objective implies the creation of a large number of decentralised units both in agriculture and in industry. These units will have to combine for meeting their common needs in the matter of credit, marketing and allied services. Thus, with the adoption of the new social order as our goal, the scope for co-operative form of organisation has increased, and it has become necessary to take effective measures to enable co-operatives to succeed. Programmes of co-operative development for the Second Five Year Plan have been drawn up broadly on the lines of the findings of the Rural Credit Survey conducted by Reserve Bank of India. One of the significant features of this new programme is the State participation in co-operatives at various levels.

The Co-operative Department has a target of 300 large size Credit Societies for the Plan period, of which 50 have been organised for issue of medium and short-term loans. Government have agreed to participate in the capital of these Societies by subscribing to half the paid up value of the shares. In addition, they have also decided to grant a subsidy of Rs.1,500 to each Society in the first year. A Central Co-operative Land

Mortgage Bank has been set up and Government have subscribed Rs. 4 lakhs towards capital of the Bank. A sum of Rs.17,000 has been granted as subsidy to meet the establishment cost of this institution. The Assam Co-operative Apex Bank, which has played a significant role in the rehabilitation of co-operative credit, has been strengthened. The State Government have purchased another Rs. 5 lakhs worth of shares in this Bank. They have also given guarantee to the Reserve Bank for the issue of advances to the Apex Bank for financing agriculture. Under the Rural Credit Rehabilitation Scheme, a sum of Rs.72,36,560 was issued as short-term loan to agriculturists up to 30th September 1956. In addition, a sum of Rs.15,47,000 was issued as medium term loan and a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs as special medium and long-term loans.

Our co-operative structure at present is essentially a credit structure. Credit is not the only requirement of the small producer whether he is a cultivator or an artisan. There are other needs such as processing and marketing where the co-operative principle can be applied with success. During the period of the Second Plan it is proposed to organize 60 Primary Marketing Societies with one Apex Marketing Society at the centre. The Assam Co-operative Apex Marketing Society has already been established and 21 Primary Marketing Societies were organized last year. Government have participated in these Societies by subscribing to half the share capital. Each Society will have a godown attached to it. There is a plan for setting up a State Warehousing Corporation. Co-operation has also been extended to processing of agricultural produce and to cottage industries.

A Co-operative Sugar Mill is being set up at Dergaon for which machineries have been ordered and the factory site has been selected and made ready. The Mill will have an installed capacity of crushing 800 tons of cane daily. It is heartening to find that the people have taken to the project with enthusiasm both in respect of buying shares and growing cane.

Four jute baling mills will be established in the jute growing areas. A cotton ginning mill has been started in the Garo Hills and another is in contemplation at Diphu. Among industrial co-operatives organized so far, mention may be made of the Karanga Blacksmithy Society, the Sarthebari Bell Metal Society and the Hajo Brass and Bell Metal Society. As stated earlier there are a number of co-operatives of weavers also.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL EXTENSION

The target laid down for the Community Development programme during the First Five Year Plan was to cover approximately one-fourth of the rural population of the State by 31st March, 1956. Accordingly, the equivalent of 35 Blocks, which was approximately a quarter of the total number of 137 Blocks allotted by the Community Projects Administration to cover the whole State, were taken up by the end of the First Plan. During 1956-57, a total of additional 21 Blocks were taken up for work. Of these, 4 National Extension Service Blocks were inaugurated on the 1st of April 1956, 11 National Extension Service Blocks inaugurated on the 2nd October 1956 and 6 multi-purpose Community Development Blocks inaugurated also on 2nd October 1956. These latter are a new series of Development Blocks sponsored jointly by the Home Ministry and the Ministry of Community Development, Government of India, and they are meant exclusively for development work among the tribal population of the Sixth Scheduled districts. By the end of 1956, 34 per cent of the total area of the State, 32 per cent of the population and 39 per cent of the total number of villages have come so far under Community Development programme. On the basis of experience gained during the last four years, the Planning Commission have laid down the permanent pattern of development in the National Extension Service Blocks which consists of four stages : (i) the pre-self-help programmes are taken up in consultation with the people using local development funds, (ii) the extension stage during which normal extension is introduced in the area along with the basic National Extension Service pattern of staff and basic pattern of working funds, (iii) the intensive development stage during which the Block is converted into a Community Development Block by providing additional working funds and some additional staff for a period of three years, and (iv) the post-intensive stage, which will be the permanent stage of development and during which the Basic National Extension Service pattern of staffing will remain but working funds will come from the budgets of different development departments. Accordingly, 17 National Extension Service Blocks have entered into the third stage and 7 Community Projects and Community Development Blocks have reverted into permanent National Extension Service Blocks with effect from 1st April 1956. It has, however, been observed that after attaining the fourth stage National Extension Service Blocks almost relapse once again to

the pre-project condition and Government will therefore, in future lay greater emphasis on the actual production side rather than the ideological aspects of the scheme.

Up to the end of 31st December 1956, the total Government expenditure on the Community Development and National Extension Service programme came to Rs. 253 lakhs. As against this, the contribution realised from the people is estimated at Rs. 131 lakhs of which Rs. 32 lakhs was in cash and materials and the balance in voluntary labour. Over 3,150 miles of village roads have been newly constructed and over 2,760 miles of existing village roads extensively repaired by voluntary efforts of the people. It is computed that earth work done by the people comes to over 2,621 lakh cubic feet. Over 2,720 bridges and culverts have been constructed from Project funds. About 4.9 lakh acres of land have been reclaimed and 1,914 minor irrigation projects have also been completed. Nearly 11 lakh animals have been treated during the period and 22 Key Village Centres and 81 Poultry Centres have been established. Some progress has also been made in the field of industry and co-operation. The pattern of training of Gram Sevaks has been altered to suit the changing circumstances.

National Extension and Community Projects have proved their utility as machinery for rural development. But their successful working in the future will depend largely on the degree of hearty co-operation they can enlist from the villagers.

PANCHAYATS

The cherished objective of our democracy is that all power should not only vest in all people theoretically but the people should also be enabled to exercise the power effectively. Moreover, it is not enough that they do exercise the power, but they should also be able to feel that they are actually running the administration of the country. Or in other words, the power of governance should ultimately be completely decentralised. This can only be done in a popular democracy of a vast country like ours through Panchayats just as in the economic sphere, the power can be shared effectively by all people through efficient Co-operatives spread over the entire realm. It is, therefore, necessary to organise Village Panchayats as local self-governing units to administer their own village affairs and also as instruments for mobilising idle man-power

in rural areas for useful development work. During 1956-57, 165 new Rural Panchayats were formed. With this the total number of Rural Panchayats in the State has increased to 429. There are 2,800 Primary Panchayats covering 17,948 villages with a population 74,67,939. The Panchayat system is confined to the plains districts. Negotiations are going on with the District Councils of the Autonomous Hills Districts for establishment of Panchayats in the hills. With the spread of the Panchayat network the Local Boards have become out-moded as an agency for local administration. It has, therefore, been decided to replace these Boards by Union Panchayats during the current year. As part of the policy of encouraging Panchayats, self-help work has been given high priority. During 1956-57, a sum of Rs. 4.26 lakhs was spent on self-help schemes. The value of the work executed is estimated at approximately Rs. 10 lakhs. In the Annual Plan approved by the Planning Commission a sum of Rs. 16 lakhs only was provided for Panchayats. The amount is inadequate compared with the programme which we have taken in hand and which we cannot curtail without retarding the progress. We have therefore made a provision of Rs. 48.55 lakhs for Panchayats in our budget.

EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE

One of the most disturbing elements in our economy is the frequency of floods which destroy standing crops and wash away valuable properties almost every year, so much so that it was once said in the Indian Legislative Assembly that the Indian budget is a gamble in rain. During the First Plan period the State Government had to give high priority to flood control measures which were essential from the point of view of food production and self-sufficiency. The frequency of floods has continued as high as ever, but the steps undertaken by Government to control the extent of damage have begun to bear fruit to an appreciable measure. During 1955, floods affected an area of 5,400 sq. miles in different parts of the State. Last year the damage was confined to 2,300 sq. miles with a population of 5 lakhs.

The measures taken by the Government to control floods include construction of embankments and drainages. For want of essential hydrological data it has not been possible to take up any major river valley project so far. Investigations are in progress on several rivers of the State and those on the Kopili Project which are in the detailed stage are nearing completion.

A River Research Station has been established at Gauhati for the study and design of protection works. The Central River Investigation Circle is still engaged in the collection of hydrological and other data relating to our river system.

During the last working season a length of 312 miles of embankments was successfully completed at a cost of about Rs. 2.0 crores making a total of 1,336 miles of embankments in the State. These works have given protection to well over five lakh acres of flood-affected land. Construction of embankments will be continued during the Second Plan period for which a programme envisaging building of 364 miles of new embankments along Brahmaputra, 456 miles along its tributaries and 133 miles along the Barak and its tributaries, has been taken up. These works will cost Rs. 6 crores and give protection to an additional area of about 9 lakh acres. Lack of sluice gates in these bunds and embankments are detracting from the full benefit of the works already completed and hydrological data are being collected and arrangements made to have sluice gates as soon as possible, each of the gates costing over a lakh of rupees in all.

Twelve town protection schemes were taken up under the First Five Year Plan. Of these, three were completed before the end of the Plan period. The first phase of the Dibrugarh Protection works, the major item of this programme, was completed before the floods of 1955. The second phase of the same project and the protection schemes in respect of five other towns, namely, Dhubri, Bilasipara, Goalpara, Nowgong and Januguri were practically completed during the working season of 1956. Protection of three other towns, Nahorkatiya, Silchar and Karimganj is also well under way. Other town protection works costing about Rs. 22 lakhs are proposed to be carried out during the Second Five Year Plan. The House will be glad to learn that the Dibrugarh Protection works have stood the test of two successive rainy seasons. These works have been completed at a cost of Rs. 2.33 crores of which 50 per cent is to be borne by the State.

POWER

It has rightly been said that the scale of power generation is an indication of the stage of development a country has attained. At the end of the First Five Year Plan the installed capacity of electricity per thousand of population in Assam was only .5 K. W. The Second Five Year Electricity Plan of the

State envisages an outlay of Rs. 3·8 crores which is expected to result in an additional installed capacity of 20,650 K.W. This will mean an installed capacity of 4·25 K.W. per thousand of population.

Assam is rich in power potential. Our river system is capable of producing enough electricity not only for our own use but also for the use of the neighbouring States. We have also large reserves of coal. It is, therefore, necessary to draw up a bold programme for generation of power for industrial and domestic consumption. The programme included in the Second Five Year Plan is too modest to take us anywhere near the All-India target in foreseeable future. We are, therefore, trying to obtain an increase in the Plan provision under electricity, and we hope that the Planning Commission will agree to this request. Of the 14 small towns electrification schemes taken up for implementation in 1955-56, six have been completed and the rest are expected to be completed during the current year. Two private electricity undertakings have been taken over by the State at Nowgong and Karimganj. It has also been decided to take over the Gauhati Electric Supply concern. The Umtru Hydro-Electric Project is nearly completed and it is expected that it will go into generation within a month or so. Government are contemplating production of electricity from natural gas of the Nahorkatiya oil field and from Ledo coal. To recommend a tariff for the supply of electricity to different consumers at reasonable rates, Government have appointed a Tariff Committee.

Until three years ago the only function which the State performed in the sphere of electricity was inspection of private undertakings as required under the law. With the completion of the Umtru Hydro-Electric Project and taking over of some private undertakings, Government have to take increasing responsibility in the generation and distribution of electricity. Following the pattern of advanced countries like the United Kingdom, the Government of India passed the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, under which the resources of the public and private sectors can be pooled for generation and supply of electricity through semi-autonomous Boards. It is proposed to set up a State Electricity Board for Assam which will take over the existing electrical assets of the State Government along with the staff. There will be a separate Power Generation Advisory Board consisting of experts to advise the State Electricity Board on long-term programmes.

MAJOR INDUSTRIES

No major industry could actually be set up in Assam during the First Plan period owing to various difficulties. Now, the Major Industries Department is in process of organisation and steps have been taken to secure the services of technical experts for advising Government on industrial projects. The State Industries Development Committee has been set up which is expected to study the economic geography of the State and to prepare model project reports for use of private industrialists. Private parties have been selected for establishing a cotton textile mill, a jute mill, a cement factory, a paper pulp mill, a fruit preservation factory and a few re-rolling mills in the State. Some of these parties have received industrial licenses from the Government of India and are making satisfactory progress with their schemes. A few have experienced difficulties, and if they are found unable to go ahead with the plans, fresh parties will be selected and recommended for license to the Government of India.

RAIL TRANSPORT DIFFICULTY

The House is aware that as a result of Partition, our communications with the rest of India were completely cut off. The rail link which was built with commendable speed has proved inadequate for the growing traffic. Even this limited capacity is not always available as breaches occur in the line during the monsoon and movement of passengers and goods has to be suspended for months at a time. The rolling stocks and locomotives are mostly over-aged and insufficient for the traffic they have to move. At the same time the special freight rates which were in force before Partition have been withdrawn and a new freight structure was introduced which is unfavourable to us. All this has contributed to the transport difficulty which is holding up industrial development in the State. We have vast reserves of natural resources awaiting exploitation. There are large deposits of limestone and coal of high quality in the Garo Hills which can be used as raw materials for cement manufacture. Industrialists are willing to set up cement factories provided cheap transport can be made available to them. We have accordingly pressed the Government of India for a Railway line to Garo Hills. The line, if established, will enable us to have major industries based upon minerals such as limestone and coal, and forest materials such as timber and bamboo.

It has been estimated that by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan the Railways will have to carry about 13 lakh tons of goods both ways over the link. This is exclusive of the needs of the new oil refinery. The capacity of the link east of Mal is only 170 M. G. wagons per day. We shall need for our State alone more than 300 wagons a day. Thus, unless steps are taken to expand the capacity of the rail link and stabilise it, we shall be in great difficulty by the end of the Plan period. A Committee was appointed by the Railway Ministry of the Government of India to go into the question of stabilisation of the Rail Link. Another Committee recently enquired into the freight structure of the Railways. The reports of the two Committees are now under consideration of the Government of India. It is heartening to learn that the Railway Ministry has decided to appoint a senior Railway Engineer to look after the link. We are grateful to the Union Railway Minister for announcing the decision of the Government of India to have a separate railway zone for Assam. Let us hope that the special needs of this undeveloped region will receive high priority in the hands of the Planning Commission and Government of India, and that the transport bottleneck will soon be a thing of the past.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ROAD TRANSPORT

For improvement of internal communication the Public Works Department has taken up several schemes of road construction. Work has begun on a programme involving an expenditure of Rs. 30 lakhs which was approved by the Assam Road Communication Board. Another road programme involving a sum of Rs. 7 crores forms part of the Second Five-Year Plan. A third road programme has been drawn up to be financed out of the State's share of the Central Road Fund. Approval of the Government of India has been obtained for a scheme to construct 300 miles of roads in the Autonomous Hill Districts. The House is aware of our anxiety to have a bridge over the Brahmaputra. The Government of India have agreed to investigation of the project for an all-weather crossing over the river to be taken up during the Third Five-Year Plan period. Two alternatives are being studied: a bridge or a tunnel. The sites taken into consideration are Gauhati and Jogighopa.

The Public Works Department has a large building programme in hand, execution of which has been held up by acute shortage of cement and steel besides technical personnel.

A scheme for the manufacture of bricks by modern process has been taken up. Another scheme to help the building programme is in hand for manufacture of standard doors and windows. Since it has been practically found impossible to meet even partially the demand in the country for cement, instructions have been received to encourage use of lime and mortar as substitute for cement where possible.

The State Transport Services have been further extended and consolidated. In the Second Plan, there is a programme which contemplates extension of nationalised service to 830 miles of important routes and highways covering the North Trunk Road from Dhubri to North Lakhimpur, the hill road from Shillong to the border of Tripura *via* Badarpur and a few other important routes. Under this programme, the following routes have been taken over for operation of the State Motor Transport Service: Shillong-Jowai-Khliehriat route, the North Gauhati-Mangaldoi-Tezpur route, the Tezpur-North Lakhimpur route including Tezpur-Rangapara route and fair weather Tezpur-Jamuguri route *via* Lower Bhorali crossing. No provision was made for the nationalisation programme in the State Annual Plan as approved by the Planning Commission. As the extension of nationalised service is essential from the point of view of standardisation and co-ordination as also for public convenience, a small provision has been made in the budget with the hope that the Planning Commission will agree to restore the full provision asked for by the Department.

It is proposed to establish a Central Workshop with modern equipments at Gauhati. A comprehensive programme for office buildings and staff quarters is also in hand. To give security of tenure to the employees, the State Transport routes operating for five years or more on profitable basis have been made permanent and employees completing five years service have been made permanent with Contributory Provident Fund benefits. The pay scales of the State Transport employees have also been raised with effect from 1st October 1956, to bring them in line with other Government employees; in fact in some cases these are better now.

WELFARE OF THE BACKWARD CLASSES

The difficulties of the backward classes, specially of the scheduled tribes and castes, have always engaged the attention of Government. In part these difficulties are an evidence of

the low development of the country in which the greater portion of the limited opportunities available during British domination over the country went to the advanced section of the population. So far as Assam is concerned, the position has been made worse after Partition by dividing the country artificially and creating economic barriers between the border hill areas of Assam and their natural markets in Pakistan. Our tribal friends in these areas are put to great hardship for want of outlet for their agricultural and horticultural products. To relieve the distress the State Government initiated two programmes, one for giving immediate relief and the other for permanent solution of the difficulties. Under the short-term programme, supply of essential commodities like rice and kerosene was subsidised and test relief measures were organised in suitable areas. These measures are still being continued. Under the long-term programme construction of a network of roads to link up the border areas with the rest of the State was taken up under the First-Five Year Plan. A scheme for permanent improvement of the scarcity areas through minor irrigation, reclamation projects and various other ways was also taken up for the benefit of the tribal people. Under this scheme more than 500 tribal families from the border areas of the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills were rehabilitated in the Bhoi area at a total cost of Rs.4,75,000.

For the educational advancement of the scheduled tribes a large number of Primary and Secondary Schools have been established in the Hills Tribal areas. At the end of the First Plan period, there were functioning in these areas 749 Government Lower Primary Schools, 331 Aided Lower Primary Schools and 1,085 Private Lower Primary Schools. In addition, 49 Junior Basic Schools were established in these areas under Article 275(1) during the First Plan period. By the end of the First Plan period there were 247 Middle English and Middle Vernacular Schools, 5 Senior Basic Schools and 28 Government Aided and the Private High Schools and 8 Government High Schools functioning in the Autonomous Districts. Government have also been granting special scholarships and free studentships generously to the tribal students.

A sum of Rs.6,30,000 has been spent from Article 275(1) grant for removing the scarcity of drinking water in the tribal areas. Grants have also been given to welfare organisations undertaking anti-leprosy schemes in the foothills of the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills, North Cachar, Mikir

and Garo Hills. For improvement of the earning capacity of the tribesmen a comprehensive programme has been taken up touching the different aspects of tribal economy. Reference has been made earlier to attempts to promote settled forms of agriculture in place of shifting cultivation. Other measures adopted to improve tribal agriculture include the introduction of new crops like cashewnut and black pepper, distribution of fertilisers and control of insects. An Agricultural Training School has been established at Upper Shillong. Co-operative processing of tribal agricultural produce has been organised by setting up co-operative ginning mills in the Garo Hills and the Mikir Hills. The Shellac Factory at Chaparmukh is also bringing benefit to the tribal people engaged in the collection of raw lac. Special attention has been paid to training of tribal boys and girls in arts and crafts, like weaving, sericulture, carpentry, blacksmithy, bee keeping, paper making, etc.

The Autonomous Hill Districts are rich in industrial raw materials like limestone, coal, sillimanite, bamboos, timber, etc. Economic exploitation of these resources can be best organised through medium and large size industrial units. I have referred to the proposals about the setting up of a cement mill and paper pulp mill during the Second Plan period. These units will be taken up in the private sector for which parties have already been selected. To ensure that the tribal people may not be deprived of the benefits of these schemes it has been provided in the agreement with the industrialists that preference should be given to tribal people in employment and contracts, that indigenous youngmen should be trained at their expense and that a percentage of the share capital should be offered to the local people for subscription. It will be to the permanent interest of our tribal brethren and of the State as a whole if these two industrial schemes with large employment potentialities can be implemented according to schedule.

In the Second Five-Year Plan, the programme for the welfare of the backward classes provides for a total outlay of Rs. 10 crores of which Rs. 7.40 crores will be spent in the hill tribal areas and Rs. 2.10 crores in plains tribal areas. A sum of Rs. 50 lakhs is provided for the welfare of the scheduled castes. An additional programme for welfare of backward classes has since been approved by the Home Ministry of the Government of India. This will be taken up as a Centrally sponsored scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 198 lakhs (Rs. 10 lakhs for scheduled castes, Rs. 20 lakhs for plains tribals and Rs. 168 lakhs for hills tribals). With

a view to encouraging the tribal and scheduled caste students to go up for secondary and higher education, a scheme of free education for these students has been launched with financial assistance from the Centre. The scheme is expected to cost Rs. 72 lakhs during the Plan period. Under this programme remission of full tuition fee was allowed last year to all scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students reading in Secondary Schools, Vocational Schools and Arts and Science Colleges up to the Degree Course, whose parents' or guardians' annual income did not exceed Rs.3,600. This scheme will be continued during the current year. These are only the broad outlines of the programme adopted by Government for welfare of the backward classes. The programme will be reviewed from time to time in the light of results and of experience gained. Government will make all possible efforts to enable this section of our population to derive the maximum advantage of the general development programme and to make up speedily for the retarded progress in the past so that our objective of a fairly equal level of progress and development for all sections of our population is attained in the shortest possible time.

EDUCATION

The House is familiar with the criticism generally levelled against our educational system. In the context of the development programme and the national objective of a socialist pattern of society, the immediate aim of educational reform should be to prepare the average citizen for the obligations arising from the new social order and to train the technical personnel required for the development programme. The State is particularly deficient in technical man-power. Shortage of engineers and other technical personnel has been responsible for our poor performance in many developmental fields during the First Plan period. We have, therefore, to lay particular emphasis on technical and vocational training in our educational programme. An Engineering College has been set up at Gauhati. But we want more Engineering Colleges. Lands are in the process of being acquired for the establishment of a Mechanical and Electrical Engineering College at Jorhat. Our Medical and Agricultural Colleges, set up after our independence, are making good progress. A Civil Engineering School has been established at Gauhati. Trade schools have also been established in different parts of the State. But the expansion of training facilities has not been commensurate with the increase in the demand for trained technical personnel. We have, therefore, to plan for further expansion

of technical education in the State. Action has been taken for all-round development of the Gauhati Civil Engineering College by appointing highly qualified professors at higher initial salaries and by equipping it with up-to-date machineries, tools, instruments, etc. Additional staff has been appointed in the Institute of Engineering and Technology at Jorhat which has been upgraded and expanded. Provision has also been made for the development of the Civil Engineering Institute at Gauhati and technical schools at Nowgong, Tezpur and Silchar.

In the field of general education Government have adopted the policy of converting selected High Schools into higher Secondary Schools and multi-purpose schools. The conversion of Primary Schools into Basic Schools is in progress, the rate of conversion being regulated according to the availability of trained teachers. While the sum spent for education in 1947-48 stood at Rs. 91.31 lakhs only, the amount budgeted for 1957-58 is of the order of Rs. 478.37 lakhs.

HEALTH

The bed strength of the T. B. Hospitals has been considerably increased. The additional 100 bedded T. B. Ward attached to the Reid Provincial Chest Hospital and a fifty bedded T. B. Hospital in the Assam Medical College have started functioning. Government have also given a grant of Rs. 2,75,000 to the Lokopriya Bordoloi Memorial T. B. Hospital for its maintenance. Number of primary health units is going up annually. The intake of Assam Medical College will soon be raised to 100 from 65 and bed strength to 700 from 456. Introduction of post-graduate courses in the Clinical subjects of Medicine, Surgery, Ophthalmology, Obstetric and Gynaecology has been sanctioned with effect from November last year.

For the first time in the History of Assam an outbreak of plague was officially reported from Gauhati in November 1956. Immediate action was taken to control the disease and to prevent it from spreading. With the help of Experts who were invited from Calcutta, an Anti-Plague Campaign Scheme was drawn up which is now under execution. To control the incidence of malaria in the State, 5 units have been started under the National Malaria Control Programme. Nine more are to be started during the current year. Fifty-seven Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and three Maternity Homes have so far been set up.

HOUSING

Shortage of houses has produced extreme conditions of over-crowding in the urban areas. The conditions in the bigger towns like Gauhati are appalling. Haphazard construction of small and ill-ventilated houses has created a situation which seriously threatens public health and well-being. The fell disease, Plague, cannot be eradicated unless the sewage system of Gauhati is improved and slums are cleared. A Town Planning Organisation has been set up to attend to this problem. Two master plans are under preparation for Gauhati and Tinsukia. Preparation of similar plans for other important towns will be taken up in due course.

A sum of Rs. 10 lakhs has been advanced to local bodies for construction of improved tenements for sweepers. A scheme for improvement of slums in Gauhati Town at a cost of Rs. 9 lakhs is under consideration of Government. Construction of 180 tenements at Tinsukia and 150 at Gauhati near Pandu is proposed to be taken up under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme. The total amount provided in the Second Five-Year Plan for this scheme is Rs. 9 lakhs. A separate scheme for the housing of scheduled caste people involving a cost of Rs. 12 lakhs also forms part of the Plan.

To help small tea planters discharge their obligations under the Plantation Labour Act by providing housing accommodation to the workers and their families, a Plantation Labour Housing Scheme with a total provision of Rs. 35 lakhs has been drawn up. Under this scheme the planters will be granted loans for which applications have been called for. The Low Income Group Housing Scheme initiated earlier will be continued during the current year.

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES FROM EAST PAKISTAN

The influx of displaced persons from East Pakistan continues unabated. During the month of August last year the rate of influx rose sharply. Total number of displaced persons in the State up to 31st December 1956 has been estimated at 4,86,240. This constant flow of migrants is making the task of rehabilitation more and more difficult.

To cope with the situation arising from increased influx of refugees to the State a reception centre to accommodate 1,000 persons was opened at Arunachal in Cachar District last year.

Schemes for gratuitous relief, for making grants for marriages Sradh, etc., were in operation during the year as in the previous years. Between 1st April, 1956 and 31st October, 1956, a sum of Rs.3,51,434 was spent on relief to displaced persons.

Reference has been made earlier to the land position in the State, and the House will agree with me that it will not be possible for the State to absorb all the displaced persons in agriculture. We have, therefore, to give an industrial bias to our rehabilitation programme. With this object in view, efforts have been made to induce industrialists in and outside Assam to start new industries with assistance from the State so that refugees may find employment. Four schemes for the training of displaced persons in carpentry, weaving, printing, tinsmithy, blacksmithy, cane and bamboo works, leather works, tiles and pottery, hosiery, tailoring, sheet metal work, etc., have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.4,15,740. A production-cum-training centre has been opened at Badarpur and four more such centres are in contemplation. Several schemes for housing refugees have been sanctioned. Schools of various categories and hospitals have been started for the benefit of the displaced persons. There are 1,918 inmates in the five destitute women homes and a Central Home at Nowgong is under construction.

LABOUR

Labour welfare schemes are receiving due attention from Government. Besides introducing legislative measures, the Government have worked in close collaboration with voluntary organisations engaged in welfare activities. In this connection, the work of the Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust, the Hindusthan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh and Assam Seva Samity deserves special mention. These organisations have been helped with grants by Government. Eighty-one community centres for plantation labour and fifteen welfare centres for urban industrial labour are to be set up during the Second Plan period. Employment exchange service will be strengthened and expanded. The Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund Scheme completed one year on 12th September, 1956. Collections totalled over Rs. 2 crores and 22 lakhs. The average credit balance of a member was Rs.100 in September last.

SUPPLY

I have referred earlier to the unsatisfactory food position in the State. It was suspected towards the close of last year

that in absence of any control on movement of foodgrains, considerable smuggling of rice and paddy from Assam into East Pakistan was going on for some time. To stop this, the State Government promulgated two control orders: the Assam Foodstuffs (Export) Control Order, 1956 and the Assam Foodgrains (Movement and Distribution) Control Order, 1956. In addition, 874 fair price shops were opened during the year. But the position could not be brought under control and price of rice and paddy continued to rise till the beginning of the current financial year when it was apprehended that a serious food crisis might develop in the State. This rise was partially due to general rise in the price level all over India owing to huge developmental expenditure and consequent inflationary pressure. Communications having vastly improved and almost every trade centre being on the telephone, rise of price in one area has its repercussions on the market in the remote corner also. For instance, North Lakhimpur is a surplus area and had good crops last year; paddy and rice from this area could not have easily found its way into East Pakistan. But there also the price of paddy and rice has been as high as in any other place in Assam. Further, although the price rose to a level almost beyond the means of the poorer section of the consumer there was no real scarcity of the commodities. One could buy as much rice as one wanted, reasonably speaking, if he could pay the prevailing market price. Thus, the malady was considerably more deep seated than was apparent on the surface. In this context, the mill owners were approached to co-operate with the Government for bringing down the price to a reasonable level and stabilising it there. I am happy to be able to inform the House that the response was prompt and encouraging, and as Hon. Members of the House are aware, the upward trend has already been arrested and what is more the prices have assumed a downward tendency, with no keen demand. I take this opportunity to appreciate the hearty co-operation of the rice mill-owners, the traders, the public and our officers of all categories in our joint endeavour to arrest the crisis of a price level of rice and paddy beyond the means of the average buyer. The Government of India have been very sympathetic and helpful towards the needs of Assam and have agreed to allot rice and paddy from the Central pool in a generous measure. But the situation is one which calls for constant vigilance and tightening of measures against hoarders and anti-social profiteers.

During the year 1956-57, 64,020 tons of cement and 13,524 tons of corrugated iron sheets were allotted to the State. Due to transport bottleneck and the inability of the manufacturers to supply the full quota, the actual quantities of these materials received in Assam were only 58,702 tons of cement and 10,498 tons of iron materials including corrugated iron sheets. Necessary steps are being taken to re-organise the system and to tone up the Government machinery so that the full quotas of iron and steel goods, cement and foodgrains available for Assam reach the State. Efforts are also being made for increase of these quotas. So far as the distribution of the commodities is concerned orders have already been issued empowering the district officers to issue permits in consultation with local Supply Advisory Boards and Panchayats.

OIL REFINERY

The location of the second refinery to process the new oil finds in Nahorkatiya and Moran has been agitating the public mind in this State for some time. As the House is aware the Government of India appointed an Expert Committee to go into this question. The report of the Committee is now under consideration of the Government of India. As this report has not yet been published by the Central Government, I am not in a position to place its findings before the House. It may be stated, however, that this Government had an opportunity to scrutinize the Expert Committee's report, as a result of which it has been found that location of the second refinery in Assam is not only technically feasible and economically sound but necessary in the wider national interest.

The important factors to be taken into account in deciding upon the location of the refinery are its capacity and the use to which the refined products are to be put. The capacity of the refinery will again be dictated by the proved oil reserves of the Nahorkatiya oil fields. Experts engaged by the Assam Oil Company Limited have estimated the proved oil reserves of these fields at 21.2 million tons. They have suggested, however, that there may be indicated and possible reserves of another 16.6 million tons. But in view of the complicated geological structure of this region and the yet preliminary state of exploration, it will not be advisable to bank upon the indicated and possible reserves at this stage. An assured reserve of 22.5 million tons is necessary to make a refinery with an annual

throughput of 1.5 million tons economic. On the basis of the proved reserves, the annual throughput of the new refinery cannot be more than 1.5 million tons. Any larger extraction is likely to exhaust the oil pool before the refinery has paid for its cost. Even if subsequent exploration raises the proved reserve, it will be desirable in the national interest to conserve such increased reserve instead of draining the field dry in a short period.

With an annual throughput of 1.5 million tons it will not be possible to export any appreciable quantities of refined products to foreign markets. The aim should, therefore, be mainly to cater for the needs of the internal market. Both the pattern of production and location of the refinery should be decided according to the needs of this internal market. The most natural and economic area of distribution for these products is the northern India market consisting of the Jalpaiguri, Patna, Lucknow regions, which are situated away from ports. The needs of the Calcutta and Puri regions can be met from the new refinery installed at Visakhapatnam which is only 450 miles from Calcutta. Besides, the requirement of the industrial area round about Calcutta can also be met by foreign petroleum products which will have to be imported to meet the deficit in domestic production at any rate for some years to come. Gauhati is connected with the northern India market mentioned above by the metre gauge railway system and it has been found that the products of a refinery located near Gauhati can be supplied in the above market at economic rates. The cost of laying pipeline from the oil field to the refinery near Gauhati will be small compared to that of a pipeline to Calcutta. The refined products can then be sent to the Northern India market over the metre gauge railway system. It is true that the railway system will have to be stabilised and its capacity expanded for this purpose. But the Railway Ministry is already committed to this in case the refinery is located in Assam. The cost incurred in improving the railway will be recovered in a few years from the increased freight the railway will earn from carriage of petroleum products besides other goods. Moreover, improvement of the railway will also remove Assam's chronic transport bottleneck and thus help in promoting the general well-being of her people, besides being of great strategic value for defence.

Above all the location of the refinery in Assam will correct the regional economic imbalance to a considerable extent. As

it is the declared policy of the Government of India to develop all the regions simultaneously so as to secure balance in the economy, this opportunity of establishing an industry in Assam with raw material available locally should not be lost. Besides providing employment to some people, the refinery will provide an opportunity for other industries to grow around it.

We have brought all this to the notice of the Government of India and we hope that these will not fail to receive due consideration and the final decision regarding the location of the refinery for Nahorkatia oils will be in our favour.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION

Our administrative machinery was originally designed to suit the needs of a law and order State. With the change of emphasis and inauguration of a Welfare State, administrative responsibilities have to be undertaken in new and unexplored fields besides the routine work. The existing machinery is hardly adequate for this task. In the first place, the administrative personnel of requisite experience and training is limited in the extreme. Secondly, we have yet to lay down suitable conventions and rules for the guidance of the personnel. New burdens thrown on the administration by expansion of State activities have strained our administrative machinery to the utmost. An Organisation and Methods Division was set up in 1954 for studying the needs of the situation and to devise techniques and procedure suited to a Welfare State Administration. To strengthen the administrative machinery, it has been decided to increase the cadres of Indian Administrative Service, Assam Civil Service Class I and Assam Civil Service Class II. A scheme for the expansion of the Jhalukbari Survey School into a full-fledged Officers' Training School is under active consideration. A Secretariat Training Class has been set up for training Assistants and there is a proposal to include stenography in its scope. A Central Training Institute has been established for training graduate and under-graduate probationers in accounts.

A contented and efficient civil service is an essential prerequisite of good administration. The House may be aware that a Pay Committee was appointed last year to go into the question of revision of pay scales of employees of the State Government. The Committee submitted its report in August last year. Among other things the Committee recommended

raising of the minimum pay scale from Rs.25—35 p.m. to Rs.28—40 p.m. The highest limit of pay under the State Government was fixed at Rs.1,500. Within these two limits the Committee recommended 64 different scales of pay in place of the 264 scales existing on that date. The Committee further recommended that the institutions like the Assam Medical College, the Agricultural Veterinary and Engineering Colleges and the Engineering School whose permanent utility has been established beyond doubt should be made permanent and the staff should be taken to permanent scales in corresponding State cadres. Similarly, the Committee recommended that permanent cadres in other Departments should be increased to absorb temporary personnel on the basis of established need for expansion. Government accepted these recommendations and gave effect to them from 1st October, 1956. The total financial implications of Pay Committee's recommendations have been estimated at Rs.1,25,24,680. As a result of the pay revision, Government servants of the lower pay groups received financial benefits ranging from Rs.5 to Rs.12 per head in individual cases. Meanwhile, the Government of India have introduced a scheme of Central assistance for giving relief to low paid employees of the State Government and local bodies in the form of *ad hoc* addition to existing dearness allowance. The benefit is restricted to Government servants whose pay *plus* dearness allowance after increase will not exceed Rs.100 per mensem. Central assistance under this Scheme which will vary from $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent to $66\frac{2}{3}$ per cent will be limited to the period of the Second Plan. We have decided to avail of this scheme and to give effect to it from the beginning of the current financial year. The financial implications of this decision will be Rs. 20.85 lakhs a year of which Government of India will pay Rs. 7.97 lakhs. As a result of this low paid Government employees such as constables and peons will get an average additional benefit of Rs.4 to Rs.5 per head per month.

To tone up efficiency and to secure speed in the execution of policy it will be necessary to strengthen the supervisory staff and to delegate specific responsibilities to officers at different levels.

ACCOUNTS FOR 1955-56

I shall now review the actuals for the year 1955-56. According to the original budget estimates the year 1955-56 was to close with a revenue deficit of Rs. 242 lakhs. The

revenue receipts were estimated at Rs. 1,905 lakhs and revenue expenditure at Rs. 2,147 lakhs. The actual revenue collections during the year amounted to Rs. 2,203 lakhs and revenue expenditure to Rs. 2,445 lakhs, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 242 lakhs. It will be seen that the actual under the Revenue heads recorded an improvement of Rs. 298 lakhs. This was due to increased receipts which are attributable to the increased tax effort of the State Government. The new taxation measures were brought into force during the latter half of the year and the revised estimates were accordingly stepped up. The improvement in revenue during 1955-56 was due almost wholly to the increased yield from Agricultural Income Tax, Excise and Other Taxes and Duties which include the Carriage tax and the General Sales Tax. Improvement under the first two heads was also due in part to the boom in the tea market in 1954.

Actual expenditure from revenue during the year was higher by Rs. 299 lakhs which was due to the mounting tempo of plan expenditure during the closing year of the First Plan.

Capital expenditure during the year, however, fell appreciably. Against an estimated amount of Rs. 687 lakhs the capital expenditure as booked in the accounts was only Rs. 585 lakhs. The year closed with a cash balance of Rs. 535 lakhs.

REVISED ESTIMATES FOR 1956-57

The original budget estimates for the year 1956-57 provided for a revenue of Rs. 2,190 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 2,555 lakhs. This left a gap of Rs. 365 lakhs on Revenue Accounts. Taking into account the Supplementary Grants sanctioned during the year and the progress of actuals during the first ten months as booked in Accountant General's office, it has now been estimated that the total expenditure on Revenue Account will amount to Rs. 23,96 lakhs. On the receipts side improvement is anticipated under Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax (Rupees 46.92 lakhs), State Excise (Rs. 10.04 lakhs), Forest (Rs. 14.36 lakhs) and other Taxes and Duties (Rs. 69.09 lakhs). The increase will, however, be counter-balanced by anticipated shortfall under Land Revenue (Rs. 46.57 lakhs) and Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and the State Governments (Rs. 87.93 lakhs). The gap in the revenue budget is thus expected to come down to Rs. 195 lakhs.

On the capital side the expenditure during 1956-57 is now estimated at Rs. 590 lakhs. As shown by the accounts the year opened with a cash balance of Rs. 535 lakhs. After providing for the capital expenditure and the deficit on Revenue Accounts the year is expected to close with a balance of Rs. 177 lakhs.

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1957-58

The receipts on Revenue Account during 1957-58 are estimated at Rs. 2428.82 lakhs and Revenue Expenditure at Rs. 2889.75 lakhs. This leaves a gap of Rs. 461 lakhs in the Revenue Budget. Compared with the actuals of 1955-56 the estimates of revenue receipts are higher by Rs. 225 lakhs. The principal heads under which improvement is expected are : Tax Revenue—Rs. 74 lakhs ; Civil Administration—Rs. 57 lakhs, including receipts from Fertilizer Distribution Scheme amounting to Rs. 50 lakhs, for which a corresponding provision has been made in the Expenditure Budget; Civil Works—Rs. 89 lakhs, due mainly to the change in accounting procedure in respect of transfers from the Central Road Fund, Special Reserve ; and miscellaneous adjustments between the Centre and the State Government—Rs. 76 lakhs.

On the capital side the expenditure is estimated at Rs. 1,056 lakhs. There is a provision of Rs. 24.65 lakhs for repayment of Central loans. The net disbursements under loans and advances are estimated at Rs. 457 lakhs. Thus, the total commitments for the year 1957-58 together with the estimated revenue deficit will amount to Rs. 1,999 lakhs. The resources expected to be available for meeting these commitments are:—

	Rs.
(1) Public borrowing	200 lakhs.
(2) Loan from Central Government ...	1,556 „
(3) Net income from Deposits, Remittances, etc. ...	93 „
(4) Opening Cash Balance	177 „
Total	<u>2,026 „</u>

This will leave us with a closing balance of Rs. 27 lakhs at the end of the year.

I have to confess that I have not been able to present a very comfortable picture of our finances to the House. As the figures show the position is disquieting. For sometime past, we have been budgeting for deficits although until 1954-55 our actuals did not confirm our fears. Our accounts for 1954-55 showed a deficit of Rs. 298 lakhs on Revenue Account. In the following year, *i.e.*, 1955-56 the revenue deficit amounted to Rs. 241 lakhs. We closed our accounts in that year with a cash balance of Rs. 535 lakhs. As shown by the Revised Estimates for 1956-57, our cash balances are expected to fall to Rs. 177 lakhs. The way our cash balances are dwindling is not a sign of increasing financial strength, nor of prosperity. So far as our expenditure under the developmental programme is concerned, the reduction of our cash assets is no doubt counterbalanced by creation of equivalent assets. But the same cannot be said of the expenditure incurred in quelling the disturbances in the Naga Hills. Apart from creating a serious ways and means position, the operation is going to cost more than what the State Government, with its usual resources, can justly be expected to bear. The Naga Hills operation is an obligation of national importance, and should, therefore, be financed mainly by the Centre. Accordingly, we raised this point before the Finance Commission and also made a request to the Central Government for financial assistance on this account. We have been assured of special assistance but we have not received any definite advice as to how much of the total expenditure incurred in connection with the Naga Hills disturbances will be paid by the Centre. We hope the Government of India will consider the urgency of the matter and agree to pay in accordance with their assurances previously communicated to us.

In our Memorandum to the Finance Commission, we have claimed a larger share of the Centrally collected taxes like the Income-tax and the Union Excise. We have also claimed a substantial grant under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. Our Government have not spared any effort to increase our revenues by exploiting the resources available within the framework of the Constitution. The receipts from the State taxes come mainly from the seven plains districts which have an organised economy. It will be seen that no fresh taxation measure has been proposed to cover the deficit in our budget. This is so because the central taxation recently announced is falling very heavily on the middle class and the poorer section of the people in Assam where the cost of living is already higher than in the rest of India. It needs very deep and serious

consideration as to how we can raise more revenue without further hitting the common man hard. On the one hand our revenue is inelastic owing to the fact that there is no ports industry and trade and commerce of any consequence. On the other hand the Central Government takes the cream out of the oil and tea industries which are the principal revenue yielding resources of this State. A Finance Minister is perhaps the most unhappy man when he has to rack his brains for finding ways and means to augment the resources of the State in a context like this.

We have not so far raised any public loan. The loans taken by us from the Centre stood at Rs. 2,475 lakhs on 31st March, 1957. According to the present terms and conditions, the total amount that will have to be paid to the Centre on account of the repayment of principal and interest on outstanding loans will be Rs. 594 lakhs during the Plan period, which works out to an annual charge of Rs. 1.2 crore. Thus, the debt charges during the Second Plan period will use up considerable proportion of the new resources to be raised by additional taxation, and to that extent, the resources available for financing the Plan will be reduced. We have, accordingly, requested the Finance Commission to revise the terms and conditions of Central loans so as to relieve the strain on the State Budget. It is hoped that the Finance Commission will take note of these difficulties and give an award to put our finances on a sound footing so that Assam may be on the same level of development with other States in India.

Sir, I have tried to give a clear picture of the budgetary position of the State and the broad outlines of our policy and programmes for the current year. It is no doubt true that the problems faced by the State are manifold and the tasks ahead of us are stupendous. But we are not to be daunted by the problems and difficulties which are rather inherent in the life of every nation and community. If the State is to forge ahead on the road of progress, we must be prepared to face them squarely and overcome them at any price. Paradoxical though it may seem, the resources of the State are not meagre either. The mineral and the forest wealth, if rightly tapped, will yield us rich dividend in due course for meeting the requirements of our expending economy. We have oil and coal, and other vast resources which go to make a nation prosperous and great. We must make determined and joint efforts to exploit these nature's gifts to the fullest advantage. Have we not the requisite strength and vitality

to rise to the occasion ? Slight differences and misunderstanding may arise amongst us now and then ; but given the good will and co-operation, we can easily adjust them and work shoulder to shoulder for our common good. This will demand of us a considerable measure of sacrifice and I am confident that our people will cheerfully agree to pay the price for the larger interest of the State. I earnestly hope that with the co-operation of all sections of the House and the Public, it will be possible to succeed in realising the objectives set forth before us and thus bringing welfare and prosperity to the people and the State.

JAI HIND

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : On a point of information, Sir, may I know whether copies of the Budget proceedings of the District Councils will be made available to us to facilitate Budget discussions ?

Mr. SPEAKER : It is the convention of the House not to raise discussions on the Budget on the day the Budget is presented. This may be done tomorrow when the Budget discussions will be made.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : I do not want to discuss the Budget here and now, but what I want to know is whether with a view to facilitate Budget discussions, copies of the proceedings on Budget discussions of the various District Councils under paragraph 13 of the 6th Schedule to the Constitution of India will be placed on the tables of the hon. Members of the House for their use. Because under paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India the State Government of Assam is required to show separately the estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to each Autonomous District and the same is required to be placed before the respective District Councils for discussion. It is only after such discussions the estimated receipt and expenditure pertaining to the Autonomous Districts are to be laid before this House. In view of this I am of opinion that these proceedings of the District Councils on Budget discussions should be made available for the hon. Members of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER : They are available in the Assembly Library, and any hon. Member desirous of taking advantage of them may obtain them from the Library. So far, it has not

been the practice in this House to place them on the tables of the hon. Members. But when they are readily available to the hon. Members, it is as good as placing them on the tables of the hon. Members. This is also the practice followed in Parliament. But if the hon. Member so desire, I shall see that in future they are placed on the tables of the Members, but not this time.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : That will not be convenient, Sir.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : But under the Constitution of India, they are to be made available to the hon. Members.

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order.

I quite understand the point of view of the hon. Member, but I do not know whether sufficient copies of these will be available at the moment from our Library, but for future the suggestion of the hon. Member is taken note of, and in the meantime, I shall see that as many copies available in the Library are placed on the tables of the hon. Members tomorrow.

(Voices—Thank you, Sir)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 a.m. on Thursday, the 13th June, 1957.

SHILLONG :

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary,

The 23rd November, 1957.

Legislative Assembly, Assam.