

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 a. m. on Tuesday, the 27th June 1967.

PRESENT

Shri Hareswar Goswami B. A. (Cal.), M. A. (Cantab), Barrister-at law, Speaker, in the Chair, 11 Ministers, 6 Ministers of State, 2 Deputy Ministers and 80 Members :

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Starred Questions

(To which oral answers were given)

*Re: Discharge of Under-Matric Teachers

*149. **Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA:** Will the Minister -in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

Whether it is a fact that the Government propose to discharge the Under-Matric Teachers who passed T. T. Examination in 1962, but have not got facility to pass P. T. Examination from their services this year ?

Shri SYED AHMED ALI (Minister of State, Education) replied:

149.—No.

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA: কোনো শিক্ষকক বর্খাস্ত কৰা নাই নেকি ?

Shri SYED AHMED ALI: হয়, যিবিলাকক কৰা হৈছে সেই বিলাক unqualified শিক্ষক । অর্থাৎ unqualified শিক্ষকৰ বাহিৰে কাকে বর্খাস্ত কৰা নাই ।

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN: মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে প্রথমে কলে বর্খাস্ত কৰা নাই আৰু এতিয়া কৈছে unqualified বিলাকক কৰিছে। এইটো বর্খাস্ত নহয় নেকি ?

Shri SYED AHMED ALI: প্রশ্নটো হৈছে Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government propose to discharge the under matric teachers who passed T. T. Examination in 1962, but have not got facility to pass P. T. Examination from their services this year ?

*The question which was pending from the previous day was put by Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta.

Re: Confirmation of Subordinate Judges**Shri SAILEN MEDHI:** asked:

*151. Will the Minister-in-charge, Law be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Assam Government have refused to confirm some of the Subordinate Judges of the State in spite of the orders of the High Court of Assam and Nagaland in their behalf?
- (b) If so, the reasons thereof?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that on refusal of the Government to give effect to the orders of confirmation one of the Judges filed a writ petition in the High Court against the Government and obtained a Rule from the High Court directing the Government to give effect to the confirmation orders of the said Sub-Judge?
- (d) Whether the Government had confirmed the Officer after the issue of this Rule from the High Court?
- (e) If not, why?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister, Law) replied:

151. (a) "No. The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the Government Notification No. LJJ.18/67/11, dated the 18th May 1967, published in the *Assam Gazette*, dated the 31st May 1967, Part I, page 1293. Sir, I read out the notification: On the recommendation of the High Court of Assam and Nagaland, the Governor of Assam is pleased to confirm the following Officers in the Assam Judicial Service (Jr.) Grade I under Rule 5(iv) of the Assam Judicial Service (Jr.) Rules, with effect from the dates noted against each:—

1. Shri Hem Chandra Goswami—21st December 1962.
2. Shri Jadav Chandra Bhuyan—1st January 1964.
3. Shri Mahesh Chandra Mahajan—2nd March 1964.
4. Shri Sukriti Charan Dutta—1st April 1967.
5. Shri Md. Matiur Rahman—1st April 1967.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Confirmation of the Sub-Judge is to be made by the Governor in consultation with the High Court under Rule 5(iv) of the Assam Judicial Service (Junior) Rules. No proposal from the High Court before 19th April 1967 came to the Government for confirmation of any of the Sub-Judges. The confirmation of Sub-Judges made by the Hon'ble

High Court in contravention of Rule 5(iv) of the Assam Judicial Service (Junior) Rules was not accepted by the Accountant-General. The question of refusal on the part of the Government to give effect to the order of confirmation of the Sub-Judges did not arise. It is not correct that one of the Judges filed a writ petition on refusal of the Government to give effect to the order of confirmation. One Sub-Judge filed a writ petition before the High Court as the confirmation was not accepted by the Audit. The Hon'ble High Court served the order on the Government only for information and guidance as Government had no further action in the matter.

(d)—Government confirmed the officers not on the basis of the Rule issued by the Hon'ble High Court but on the recommendation made by the Hon'ble High Court under the Government notification mentioned under (a).

(c)—Does not arise.

Shri SAILEN MEDHI: Sir, whether it is a fact that in the writ petition which was filed by the Sub-Judge, Government was a party?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Yes, Government was a party.

Shri SAILEN MEDHI: What for that writ petition was filed?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Sir, the Hon'ble High Court *suo moto* confirmed the Sub-Judges but the order was not obeyed by the Accountant General, and, therefore, the writ petition was filed.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: What was the Audit objection?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The Audit objection was that Government are to confirm the Judges on the recommendation of the High Court. High Court cannot itself confirm the Judges. Therefore, the writ petition was filed.

Mr. SPEAKER: High Court confirmed them. But as a matter of fact under the rules confirmation has to be done by the Government in consultation with the High Court. That was the irregularity and so there was audit objection.

Shri SAILEN MEDHI: Whether the audit objection was mentioned in the affidavit filed by Government in the writ petition?

Mr. SPEAKER: Whether Government filed any affidavit, that should be the first question.

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Government did file an affidavit.

Mr. SPEAKER: Whether the Audit objection was mentioned in the affidavit?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: It must have been mentioned.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: The High Court did not consult the Government. Was it a fault of the Officers who have not been confirmed ?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Under the Rules, Sir, the High Court is to recommend for confirmation and Government has to confirm.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYA: প্রশ্নটা হৈছে হাতী আৰু ন'হৰ বুজ লাগে উলু খাগৰিব মৰণ মিলে। High Court আৰু Accountant General ৰ বুজ লাগিছে আৰু অফিচাৰৰ মৰণ মিলিছে।

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: This is a matter of opinion .

Re: Appointment Shri Bhuban Chandra Dutta as Presiding Officer of Industrial Tribunal

Shri SAILEN MEDHI: asked:

*152. Will the Minister-in-charge of Law be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that in the appeal before the Supreme Court against the Rule quashing the appointment of Shri Bhuban Chandra Dutta as Presiding Officer of the Industrial Tribunal preferred by the State Government, Shri Dutta was only a respondent ?

(b) If so, did the Government bear the expenses of Shri Dutta in the High Court as well as in the Supreme Court appeal ?

(c) If so, what was the amount paid to Shri Dutta as his T. A. and his lawyers' fees ?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister, Law) replied:

152. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

Re: Number of Munsiffs in the State

Shri SAILEN MEDHI: asked:

*153. Will the Minister-in-charge of Law be pleased to state—

(a) How many Munsiffs are there in the State of Assam ?

(b) Whether all of them have been confirmed ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that one of the Munsiffs was recommended by the High Court in January 1965 for confirmation?

(d) If so, when was he confirmed?

(e) How many Munsiffs were confirmed during the period from September 1961 to February 1967?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister, Law) replied :

153. (a)—Twenty-three.

(b)—No.

(c) No.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Four.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Government has given the figure for the whole State. What is the Subdivision wise figure?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: That information is not with me, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: But that is a relevant question.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Government has given the figure for the whole State. I want to know where they are posted.

Mr. SPEAKER: You try to find out the figures and give the reply afterwards.

Shri DULAL GHANDRA BARUA: What is the principle followed in the matter of confirmation of the Officers?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: They are confirmed by the Government on the recommendation of the High Court.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Who is the seniormost Munsiff, may I know his name?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Shri Keshab Chandra Bora, confirmed on 28th November 1961.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Where is he posted?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Unfortunately that information is not with me now. I will supply the information afterwards.

Shri GIASUDDIN AHMED: In view of the increasing number of civil suits, may I know whether Government propose to increase the number of munsiffs?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: That is not under the consideration of Government at present.

Re: Appointment of Assistant Government Pleader

Shri SAILEN MEDHI asked:

*154. Will the Minister-in-charge of Law be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Deputy Commissioner, Dibrugarh and the District Judge, Upper Assam Division asked for any appointment of Assistant Government Pleader for that Subdivision?

(b) If not, why an Assistant Government Pleader has been appointed there?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister, Law) replied:

154. (a)—No.

(b)—Assistant Government Pleader was appointed having regard to the work-load of the Government Pleader at Dibrugarh. As the Government Pleader, Dibrugarh wanted assistance of an Assistant Government Pleader, the appointment was accordingly made.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Should we understand that the Assistant Government Pleader at Dibrugarh was appointed without being asked for such appointment by the Deputy Commissioner, Dibrugarh, or by the District Judges, Upper Assam Districts?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: As regards the Assistant Government Pleader, it is not necessary for the Deputy Commissioner to send any proposal. In the present case, the Government Pleader wanted the assistance of an Assistant Government Pleader and accordingly he was appointed.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: It was then on the requisition of the Government Pleader, without reference to the Deputy Commissioner and the District Judge, that the Assistant Government Pleader was appointed. Is that the position?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Government can do so.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Has the Government in consultation with the District Judges and the Deputy Commissioner examined the work-load?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: The demand by the Government Pleader was considered justified by Government and hence the appointment was made.

Shri BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: মহোদয়, যোৱা কালি মোৰ প্রশ্নৰ উত্তৰত সন্তী মহোদয়ে কৈছিল যে এই বিষয়ে D. C.ৰ পৰামৰ্শ বা অনুমোদন লোৱা হৈছে কিন্তু আজি কৈছে যে D. C.ৰ অনুমোদন নালাগে—কোনটো কথা সচা বুলি ধৰিম?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Yesterday, the question was whether the Government Pleader was appointed on the recommendation of the Bar Association ?

Mr. SPEAKER: There was something more. It was starred question No.133: "How many new Government Pleaders and Assistant Government Pleaders have been appointed this year ? Who are the persons and what are the places of appointment ? The number of Civil Suits and Appeals conducted by the new Government Pleader of Jorhat and Assistant Government Pleader of Dibrugarh in the last three years ?". There were supplementaries.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Yes, Sir, so far as I remember the supplementary was whether the Assistant Government Pleader at Dibrugarh was appointed on the recommendation of the Bar Association of Dibrugarh and the Deputy Commissioner of Dibrugarh.

The Minister was pleased to reply that the recommendation of the Bar Association was not necessary and the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner was taken. To-day the Minister has replied that the recommendation of either the Deputy Commissioner or the District Judge was not taken as this was not considered necessary. Apparently these two answers are contradictory. Either this reply is correct or the other one is correct. If one is true the other cannot be true.

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : Yesterday, the question was whether the Government Pleader was appointed on the recommendation of the 3 agencies, viz., the Bar Association, the Deputy Commissioner and the District Judge. My point was that the recommendation of the Bar Association was not necessary, but the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner, in consultation with the District Judge, was necessary. That was my point.

Mr. SPEAKER: That was regarding the Assistant Government Pleader or the Government Pleader ?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Government Pleader.

Mr. SPEAKER: But now the question is about Assistant Government Pleader.

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: There is no provision for appointment of Assistant Government Pleader.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: If there is no provision how can he be appointed ?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: There is no rule about his appointment.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: It is one thing to say that there is no provision for appointment of Assistant Government Pleader and another thing to say that there is no rule covering the appointment of Assistant Government Pleader. Which one the Minister wants to say ?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: There are no particular rules regarding the appointment of Assistant Government Pleader.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: In this case is it Government's position that an Assistant Government Pleader at Dibrugarh was appointed without recommendation of or without consultation with either the District Judge or the District Magistrate, *viz.*, the Deputy Commissioner, in whose courts cases are conducted?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Here the question of recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner or the District Judge does not arise. Here on the demand of the Government Pleader an Assistant Government Pleader was appointed as the Government thought that the work-load justified it.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: The Minister said that there was no rule regarding appointment of Assistant Government Pleader. Are we to understand that without following any procedure this Assistant Government Pleader was appointed? If so, how?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: Here the Assistant Government Pleader was appointed as the work-load was so heavy that the Government Pleader could not cope with it.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Through which agency this was ascertained?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I have already replied that the Government Pleader wanted an Assistant Government Pleader.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: This is all right. The point is: the Government Pleader wanted an Assistant as he could not cope with the work-load; but did Government ascertain through any other agency whether the demand of the Government Pleader was justified or not or the Government simply acted on the requisition of the Government Pleader?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: He was appointed on the recommendation of the Government Pleader and there was no objection from anywhere.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know whether Government consider the District Magistrate to be head of the District or the Government Pleader? If it is the District Magistrate, may I know whether it is incumbent on the part of the Government to ascertain the work-load from him and, if so, why it was not done?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: In this particular case the Government was satisfied that the work-load was heavy, and it was difficult for the Government Pleader to cope with the work.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Can we then take it that the appointment was made not on the basis of workload, since there was no recommendation from the District Magistrate, but on political considerations?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, it was on the requirement of the Government Pleader.

Shri BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: ডিফেন্ডেণ্ট ইমানবিলাক Senior Pleader বলা বসেও এই Junior Pleader জনক কিয় লাগে চৰকাৰে জনাবনে?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is whether the person who has been appointed Assistant Government Pleader was recommended by the Government Pleader or there was a selection?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: So far my records show it was recommended by the Government Pleader himself.

Shri BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: সেই জন এজন retired জাজৰ পুতেক হয় নে?

Mr. SPEAKER: No reply should be given.

Re: Public Prosecutors of Nowgong and Gauhati

Shri SAILEN MEDHI asked:

*155. Will the Minister-in-charge of Law be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Public Prosecutors of Nowgong and Gauhati respectively were not allowed to continue on the ground that they attained the age of 60 years?

(b) If so, whether it is a fact that one of the Assistant Government Pleaders, Gauhati is still allowed to continue even after he has crossed the age of 60?

(c) If so, why?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister, Law) replied:

155. (a)—It is not a fact that the terms of the Public Prosecutor Gauhati and Nowgong were not extended on the ground of age. They were not allowed to continue inasmuch as their work was not satisfactory.

(b)—It is not a fact that any Assistant Public Prosecutor of Gauhati has been allowed to continue beyond the age of 60.

(c) Does not arise?

Shri SAILEN MEDHI: Sir, if the services of the Government Pleader are required, what is the procedure Government adopts to appoint a Government Pleader? How he is removed from the service?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: (Chief Minister): Sir, the appointment is only for a period of time and after expiry of that period the services of the incumbent are terminated. He may not be reappointed and for his reappointment normal procedure has to be adopted.

Shri SAILEN MEDHI: Sir, is it a fact that Government has not given any notice to the Government Pleader ?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: I cannot say.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: So far as question (a) is concerned, it relates to Public Prosecutors and so far as question (b) is concerned, it relates to Assistant Government Pleader, Gauhati. So, it appears that in reply to question (b), the Minister probably wrongly mentioned that the Assistant Public Prosecutor of Gauhati has been allowed to continue beyond the age of 60 ?

Mr. SPEAKER: In question (a) there is a reference of Public Prosecutors of Nowgong and Gauhati and in (b) there is a reference of Assistant Government Pleaders, Gauhati. The reply is not to the point ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I think the Law Minister knows that so far as the case in the criminal side is concerned, it is conducted by the Public Prosecutors and so far as the civil case is concerned it is conducted by the Government Pleader or Assistant Government Pleader. In big courts like Gauhati there may be two sets of officers. Here, the question arises that in (b), a reference was made for Assistant Government Pleader, but the reply is given with regard to Assistant Public Prosecutor. What is the reason ?

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR: There is some mistake here.

Mr. SPEAKER: There must be some mistake.

Re: Protection of Sukchar Area in Mankachar from the erosion of the river Jinjiram

Shri ZAHIRUL ISLAM asked:

*156. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that Sukchar in the Mankachar constituency is being eroded by the river Jinjiram ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken to protect the Bazar from such erosion ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY [Minister, Public Works Department (Flood Control and Irrigation Wing)] replied:

156. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No protective measures have so far been undertaken.

Re: Ring Bund around Mankachar Town

Shri ZAHIRUL ISLAM asked:

*157. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government have received any proposal for a ring bund around Mankachar Town for its protection from flood and erosion ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken to this effect ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY [Minister, Public Works Department (Flood Control and Irrigation Wing)] replied:

157. (a)—Yes.

(b)—This is under investigation.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister since when the investigation has been continuing ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: Some times past.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Naturally, when there is an investigation, it must be some times past. But the question is since when ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: The definite date is not available at the moment.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister how long it will take to take a final decision in this regard ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: The decision will be taken immediately after the investigation is over.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister when the result of the investigation can be expected ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: It is not possible to give any date when the investigation result can be expected.

Re: Large Scale Irrigation in Assam

Shri SHAMSUL HUDA asked:

*158. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Flood Control and Irrigation) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government has felt the necessity of large scale irrigation in Assam ?

(b) If so, whether Government has any project for large scale irrigation ?

(c) If not, why ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY [(Minister, Public Works Department (Flood Control and Irrigation))] replied:

158. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes. Several Minor Irrigation Schemes and a few medium Irrigation Schemes have already been taken up.

(c)—Does not arise.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Rajghat scheme, which is a very important scheme, has been included in the list?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: The Rajghat scheme is not included.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister what are the schemes proposed to be taken up?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: I have here with me a long list. If the hon. Members like I can read them out. I have some 51 schemes here.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Sir, whether the Rajghat scheme will be included in the immediate future?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: It is difficult to commit now.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister at what stage the Jamunamukh scheme is?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: The earth-work has been completed and only the canal system remains. It is also going to be completed soon.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Sir, the other day the Minister has said that the scheme has been transferred to major irrigation and now he says that Government cannot make any commitment regarding Rajghat irrigation scheme. Sir, I am definite if this scheme is undertaken, it will give four lakhs maunds of paddy every year.

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: There is no proposal at present to take such project. This project may be taken up after investigation.

Shrimati PRANATI TALUKDAR: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether Government proposes to have a comprehensive plan for medium irrigation throughout the State?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: That is not possible now.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: চৰকাৰৰ এয়ে উদ্দেশ্য নেকি যে য'ত পানী নাই তাত পানী দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা নাই আৰু য'ত পানী আছে ত'ত ইফাল সিফাল কৰি থাকিব।

Mr. SPEAKER: You need not reply.

Re: Forest Villages of Golaghat Forest Range

Shri SONESWAR BORA asked:

*১৬০। মাননীয় ৰাজহমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে অনুগ্রহ কৰি জনাবনে —

(a) চৰকাৰে এই বিষয় জ্ঞাত নে যে যোৱা ৫০।৬০ বছৰৰ পৰা গোলাঘাটৰ চাউডাং পথাৰ গাঁও, কাছমাৰি আমগুৰি গাঁও আৰু ১৯৫২-৫৩ চনৰে পৰা তৰাণী গমাৰিগুৰি গাঁও, বনবিভাগৰ গাঁও হিচাবে এতিয়ালৈকে ধৰা হৈছে।

(b) এই গাঁও কেইখন ৰাজহ বিভাগৰ অধীনলৈ সোনকালে অনাৰ দিহা চৰকাৰে কৰিবনে ?

(c) যদি নকৰে, কিয় নকৰে ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister, Forest) replied:

160. (a)—Yes, all these are forest villages under the Golaghat Forest Range of Sibsagar Forest Division established on different dates.

হয়, এই কেইখন শিৱসাগৰ বন সংমণ্ডলৰ অধীনৰ গোলাঘাট বনাঞ্চলৰ ভিতৰত বেলেগ বেলেগ সময়ত স্থাপন কৰা জংঘলী গাঁও।

(b)—Government do not contemplate so at present.

চৰকাৰে এনে ব্যৱস্থাৰ বিষয়ে বৰ্তমান ভবা নাই।

(c)—The transfer of these villages to Revenue Department means dereservation of the area of the Reserved Forests and formation of revenue villages inside Reserved Forests. Such a step will lead to formation of non-Forest pockets within Forest reserves, which would be greatly detrimental to the interests of Reserved Forest.

এই জংঘলী গাঁও কেইখন বনবিভাগৰ পৰা ৰাজহ বিভাগলৈ হস্তান্তৰ কৰা মানে সংৰক্ষিত বনৰ এক অংশ মুকলি কৰা আৰু সংৰক্ষিত বনাঞ্চলৰ ভিতৰত ৰাজহ বিভাগৰ গাঁও স্থাপন কৰা। এনে ধৰণৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিলে সংৰক্ষিত বনৰ ভিতৰত অনা জংঘলী গাঁও স্থাপন কৰা হ'ব, যাৰ পৰা সংৰক্ষিত বনৰ অতি অনিষ্ট সাধন হ'ব পাৰে।

Shri SONESWAR BORA: মহী মহোদয়ে এই কথা জনাবনে যে স্বাধীনতাৰ ২০ বছৰৰ পিছত সেই Forest Village ৰ মানুহবিলাকে তাত বেগাৰী খাটিব লগীয়া হৈছে ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY: আগৰ পৰা চলি অহা নিয়ম মতে বনাঞ্চলৰ গাওঁবাগীয়ে বছৰত ৫ দিনকৈ নিজ নিজ বনাঞ্চলত শ্রমদান কৰিব লাগে।

Shri MOHIDHAR PEGU: বনাঞ্চলৰ গাওঁসমূহত যে বাস্তা-ঘাট, খোৱা পানী আদিৰ ব্যৱস্থা নাই সেই কথা চৰকাৰে জানেনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY: আগতে তেওঁলোকৰ বাস্তা-ঘাট, খোৱা পানী আদিৰ ব্যৱস্থা আৰু বক্ষণ-ৰক্ষণ বনবিভাগৰ পৰা কৰা হৈছিল—বৰ্ত্তমান সেই গাওঁবিলাক পঞ্চায়ত এলাকাৰ ভিতৰত পৰাত তেওঁলোকৰ বাস্তা-ঘাট, খোৱা পানীৰ আদিৰ ব্যৱস্থা আৰু বক্ষণ-ৰক্ষণ পঞ্চায়তে কৰে। গতিকে সেই সুবিধা নাই বুলি কব নোৱাৰি।

Shri SONESWAR BORA: এই গাওঁবিলাকৰ ভিতৰত অহা-যোৱা কৰাৰ সুব্যৱস্থা নাই, কৃষি জলসিঞ্চনৰ সুবিধা, গৰু কিনাৰ কাৰণে ধাৰ লোৱাৰ বা অন্য কাৰণে টকা পোৱাৰ সুবিধা নাই কাৰণে তাৰ কাৰণে জমিন দিব পৰা নাটি তেওঁলোকৰ নাই যিহেতু তেওঁলোক ৰাজহ বিভাগৰ তললৈ অহা নাই। চৰকাৰে তাৰ কাৰণে কি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY: তেনে ধৰনৰ কিছু অসুবিধা আছে কিন্তু বৰ্ত্তমানে কিবা এটা অনুকূল ব্যৱস্থা কৰাৰ কথা চৰকাৰে ভাবিছে।

Shri SONESWAR BORA: বন বিভাগৰ অধিনস্থ গাওঁ হিচাবে তেওঁলোকে পঞ্চায়ত নিৰ্ব্বাচনৰ সুবিধা পায়নে ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY: তেওঁলোকৰ নিজ নিজ এলাকাৰ পঞ্চায়ত বিলাকত সেই সেই বন্যগাওঁ সমূহে পঞ্চায়ত নিৰ্ব্বাচনত ভোটাধিকাৰ পাইছে।

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA: এই গাওঁবিলাক অন্যান্য গাওঁৰ সমকক্ষ কৰাৰ কাৰণে যদি বাহিৰ কৰি নিয়া হয় তেন্তে বনবিভাগৰ কোনো অন্যাৰ হব নেকি ? যদি নহয় তেন্তে তেওঁলোকৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণে তেনে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY: এই বন্য গাওঁবিলাক সেই বনাঞ্চলৰ সংৰক্ষণৰ কাৰণেহে স্থাপন কৰা হৈছে। আৰু সেই গাওঁ বিলাক বনবিভাগৰ বক্ষিত অঞ্চলৰ অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত। ইয়াৰ পৰা তেওঁলোকৰ কোনো অসুবিধা বৰ্ত্তমান নাই। পঞ্চায়তে তেওঁলোকৰ বাস্তা-ঘাট, খোৱা পানীৰ ব্যৱস্থা আদি কৰে, আৰু কোনো কোনো ক্ষেত্ৰত বন বিভাগেও সহায় কৰে যেনে তেওঁলোকৰ স্কুল আদি, বাস্তা-ঘাটৰ দায়িত্ব বন বিভাগেও বহন কৰিছে।

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA: এতিয়াও সেইবিলাক গাঁৱ ত যাতায়াতৰ যথেষ্ট অসুবিধা আছে। তাৰ কাৰণে তেওঁলোকৰ উৎপন্ন দ্ৰব্যবোৰ কম দামতে বিক্ৰি হয়—যেনে গাখীৰৰ সেৰ ২৫ পইছাত বিক্ৰি হয়।

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY : মই ইতিমধ্যেই কৈছো যে সাধাৰণতে সেই গাঁওবোৰৰ অহা-যোৱা কৰা বাস্তা ঘাট, আলি-পদুলীৰ ব্যৱস্থা আৰু বক্ষণ-বেক্ষণ বনবিভাগে কৰে।

Shri BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: বন বিভাগৰ গাঁওৰ লোকে বছৰি ৫ দিনকৈ বেগাবী খোৱা ব্যৱস্থাতো চৰকাৰে কিমান দিন ৰাখিব খুজিছে ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY: এইটো একো বেগাবী খোৱা কথা নহয়। বছৰে যে ৫ দিনকৈ বনাঞ্চলত শ্ৰম দিয়ে, সেইটো তেওঁলোকে খোৱা মাটিৰ খাজনাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে হৈ দিয়ে। সেইটো তেওঁলোকৰ কাৰণে লাভজনক বুলিহে চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা কৰে।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: এই শ্ৰমদান বাধ্যতামূলক নে ইচ্ছাকৃত ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY: এইটো এটা মতামতৰ কথা। মই আগতেই কৈছো যে এই শ্ৰমদান তেওঁলোকে দিব লগা খাজনাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে—গতিকে সেইটো বাধ্যতামূলক নহয়।

Shri GIASUDDIN AHMED: বছৰে ৫ দিন শ্ৰমদানত কিমান টকা হয় ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY: ১৫ টকা পৰিমাণ হ'ব পাৰে।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: বৰ্ত্তমানে যিবিলাক গাঁওৰ প্ৰশ্ন উঠিছে, সেইবিলাক বুটিছৰ দিনৰে পৰা তাতে আছে আৰু তেওঁলোক আজিলৈ সেই একে অৱস্থাতে আছে। তাৰ পিছত যেতিয়া আমাৰ সংবিধান বচনা কৰা হ'ল, সেই সময়ত সংবিধানত স্বত্ৰ এটা দিয়া হৈছে যে আমাৰ এই স্বাধীন ভাৱতৰ কোনো নাগৰিকক জোৰ কৰি কামত খোৱা নহ'ব। এই আমাৰ এই স্বাধীন ভাৱতৰ কোনো নাগৰিকক জোৰ কৰি কামত খোৱা নহ'ব। এই স্বত্ৰটো সংবিধানৰ নিৰ্দ্ধেয় হিচাবে লোৱা হৈছে। সেই গাঁওবিলাক আগৰ পৰাই আছে বুলি সংবিধানৰ পিছত সেই পুৰণি নিয়ম বিলাকো প্ৰযুক্তনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY: এই গাঁওবিলাক আগৰ পৰা আছে যদিও আগতকৈ বহু সুবিধা দিয়া হৈছে আৰু দিয়াৰ চেষ্টা কৰি থকা হৈছে—যেনে তেওঁলোকৰ বাস্তা-ঘাট, খোৱা পানী ইত্যাদি আৰু পঞ্চায়তৰ ভোটাধিকাৰ ইত্যাদি দিয়া হৈছে। এতিয়া কথা হ'ল বছৰত ৫ দিনৰ শ্ৰমদান—সেইটো বাধ্যতামূলক হৈছে বুলি বিবেচনা কৰা নাই। সেইটো তেওঁলোকৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণেই কৰা হৈছে। তেওঁলোকে দখল কৰা মাটিৰ খাজনাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে, তেওঁলোকে শ্ৰমদান কৰে। সেই গাঁওবোৰ স্থাপন কৰা হৈছে কেৱল বনাঞ্চলৰ বক্ষণ-বেক্ষণৰ কাৰণে। সেই উদ্দেশ্য এই গাঁওত বহাৰ কাৰণে মূলতে এটা চুক্তি আছে যে যিসকলে সংৰক্ষিত বনাঞ্চলত বহিবৰ ইচ্ছা কৰে তেওঁলোকে খাজনাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে বছৰে ৫ দিনকৈ বনাঞ্চলত শ্ৰমদান কৰিব লাগিব। সেই অনুসাৰে তেওঁলোকে বছৰে ৫ দিনকৈ বনাঞ্চলত শ্ৰমদান কৰে।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA: চুক্তি হিচাবে কৰিলে বাধ্যতামূলক নহয় নেকি ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY: এই চুক্তি তেওঁলোকৰ কাৰণে optional গতিকে বাধ্যবাধকতাৰ প্ৰশ্ন নুঠে। সেইবিলাক Reserve Forest তাত ব্যক্তিগত স্বাধীনতা অধীনত ভাবে দিব নোৱাৰি; দিলে উদ্দেশ্যত ব্যাঘাট হব।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA: ব্যক্তিগত স্বাধীনতা এই চুক্তিত সোমাই আছে হয়, এই লোক সকলে হয় বেগাব খাটিব লাগিব নহয় তাৰ পৰা উচ্ছেদ হব লাগিব। এই যে দুটা কথা আছে এইটো তেওঁলোকৰ ইচ্ছাত হোৱা বুলি কব নোৱাৰি। এনে অৱস্থাত চৰকাৰে ভাবে নে যে এইটো চৰকাৰৰ স্বইচ্ছাৰ চুক্তি ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY: চুক্তি হয় দুটা পাৰ্টিৰ মাজত—দুয়োটা পাৰ্টিৰ স্বইচ্ছাতে চুক্তি হয়—তাত বাধ্যবাধকতাৰ প্ৰশ্ন নাই।

Shri ATAUAR RAHMAN: কাম কৰোৱাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে Taujibahi খাজনা লব নোৱাৰিনে ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): নোৱাৰি। Forest village মাটি দিবৰ কাৰণে কৰা নহয়। ইয়াৰ উদ্দেশ্য হ'ল Forestৰ বক্ষণ-ৰক্ষণৰ কাৰণে Forest Village কৰা হৈছে। আগৰ পৰা Forest Village ভূমিকম্প, বানপানী, গৰাখহনীয়া আদিৰ প্ৰকোপত বিশ্বংশ হোৱা বহু মানুহক Forestৰ আৱশ্যকতাৰ বাহিৰে বহাৰ লগীয়া হৈছে। এতিয়া চৰকাৰৰ সিদ্ধান্ত হৈছে যে জনবসতি Forest Reserveৰ একালে পৰিলে সেই ঠাই ৰাজহ বিভাগক দিয়া হ'ব কিন্তু Forestৰ মাজে মাজে পৰিলে সেইবিলাক ৰাজহ বিভাগক দিয়াত অসুবিধা আছে, কাৰণ সেইবোৰ Forest বিভাগৰ ৰক্ষিত ঠাই।

Re: Test Relief Proposals of Sibsagar Anchalik Panchayats.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA asked:

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

- (a) Whether the Sibsagar Anchalik Panchayat submitted some Test Relief proposals during 1956 ?
- (b) What are the mauzas covered by Sibsagar Anchalik Panchayat ?
- (c) What are the mauzas affected by floods ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister, Revenue) replied:

161. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Nagarmohal, Betbari, Bakata, Hahchara and Silakuti (part).

(c)—Parts of Betbari and Bakata mouzas.

Re: Supply of Filtered Water at Panery

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY asked:

*162. Will the Minister-in-charge of Health be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government propose to undertake a scheme for supply of filtered water to the people living in Sekhar, Majikuchi and Silpota mouzas of Panery constituency where there is acute scarcity of drinking water and people are suffering a lot?

(b) If so, when?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV (Minister, Health) replied:

162. (a)—There is no proposal for taking up any scheme in Sekhar, Majikuchi and Silpota mouzas.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: সরকার কি তদন্ত করেছেন যে এই সেখর, মারিকুছি আর শিলপোটা মৌজাতে জলের অভাব আছে?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB: তদন্তের আমার কোন প্রয়োজন নাই।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: তাহলে কি সরকার এই অঞ্চলে যে জনসাধারণ বাস করে সেই অঞ্চলের জনসাধারণের জলের অভাব আছে কিনা সেটা অনুসন্ধান না করেই সরকার সিদ্ধান্ত করেছেন সে জলের প্রয়োজন হবে না?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB: Investigation করেছি কিন্তু টাকা নাই। No fund is available for piped water supply under rural sector and as such no fresh rural water supply scheme can be taken up.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের কাছে জানতে পারি কি যে অঞ্চলে জলের অভাব আছে সেখানে কুয়া করতে ৩০ হাজার টাকা দরকার—সরকারে এই ব্যাপারে ওখানে গ্রাম পঞ্চায়ৎ কে সাহায্য করবেন?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB: টাকা পেলে বিবেচনা করবে

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Whether the Government is aware of the fact that in the year 1963 the Public Health Engineering Department made an investigation about this project and submitted a proposal to the Government? If so, at what stage the proposal stands now?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB: There is no fund and now.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় কি তদন্ত করে দেখবেন যে যদি জলের ব্যবস্থা না করা হয়, ওখান থেকে লোক জলের অভাবের জন্য চলে যাবে কিংবা মরে যাবে?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB: অনুসন্ধান করবো।

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: Is the Minister aware that the Tubewell Division of the Government of India made some survey in this area? If so, at what stage the matter is?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB: I want notice, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you have not followed the question. Whether the Tubewell Division of the Government of India made survey and whether you are aware of it?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB: I shall make some investigations

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: No, no, investigation was already made. Whether the Government is aware of the result of that investigation?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB: I will make enquiries.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that Government of India has placed sufficient fund under the disposal of the State Government for rural water supply? If so, what is the amount?

Mr. SPEAKER: This does not arise.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: আমি কি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের কাছে জানতে পারি যে এই বছরের ভিতর এই অঞ্চলে যে ভাবই হোক জলের ব্যবস্থা করা হবে?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB: এখনও এটা investigation হচ্ছে কাজেই আমি প্রতিশ্রুতি দিতে পারি না।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: তাহলে জনের অভাবে যদি লোক মারা যায় সে দায়িত্ব সরকার নেবেন ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister).
সে সমস্তের জন্য দায়ী হবেন মাননীয় সদস্য ।

Re: Industrial Disputes

Shri JAGANNATH SINHA asked:

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

- (a) Is there any time limit within which the appropriate Government has to take action under Section 12(5) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that a large number of Industrial Disputes affecting workmen of Cachar represented by Cachar Sha Sramik Union have for a long time been pending with the Government for action under Section 12(5) referred to above ?

(c) If so, what are the reasons for such delay ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour)
replied :

163. (a)—No.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

Re: Death of a T. B. Patient

Shri GIASUDDIN AHMED asked:

*164. Will the Minister-in-charge of Health be pleased to state—
Whether it is a fact that one Hridaynath Churnakar of Bilasipara Town, a T. B. patient, died recently of stravation and for want of treatment ?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV (Minister, Health etc.,) replied:

164. No. Late Hridaynath Churnakar received proper treatment and died a natural death at the age of 75 years .

MAULANA ABDUL JALIL CHOUDHURY—স্যার, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বলেছেন Natural death আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করেছি, অপ্রাকৃতিক মৃত্যু কাকে বলে ? (No reply).

Shri GIASUDDIN AHMED: May I know how long this patient was in T. B. Hospital at Dhubri ?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB: That information I don't have but he was an outdoor patient.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: It is clearly understood that the patient was not admitted into the Hospital.

Shri GIASUDDIN AHMED: May I know whether he applied for a bed in the T. B. Hospital?

Mr. SPEAKER: Whether he applied for a bed in the T. B. Hospital.

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB: He probably preferred to be an outdoor patient.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, the Minister's replies are all surmises. What we want to know is the fact, not the presumption.

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB: We have no information.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলছেন, injection দেওয়া হয়েছে? সেটা কি injection দেওয়া হয়েছে?

(No reply).

Shri ATUL CHANDRA GOSWAMI: দেখা গৈছে, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে প্ৰত্যেক প্ৰশ্নতেই হয় 'No information', নহয় 'No', নহয় নতুন প্ৰশ্ন নাটক লাগে ইত্যাদি উত্তৰ দিছে। সেই কাৰণে মুখ্য মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে অনগ্রহ কৰি তেখেতক দণ্ডবিহীন মন্ত্ৰী কৰি ৰাখিবনে?

(No reply).

Re: Reconstruction of Bridges on Nowgong-Bhuragaon Road

Shri SHAMSUL HUDA asked:

*165. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that some bridges on the Nowgong-Bhuragaon Road have been reconstructed?

(b) Whether it is a fact that old timbers on the same bridges have been re-used?

(c) If so, why?

Shri ALTAF HOSSAIN MAZUMDER [Minister of State, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings)] replied :

165. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The old serviceable timbers were utilised to reduce the cost of reconstruction of the bridges.

Re: Baruaogaon Hospital of Golaghat Subdivision

Shri SONESWAR BORA asked:

166. Will the Minister-in-charge of Health be pleased to state—

(ক) গোলাঘাটৰ বৰুৱাগাঁও হাস্পিতেলখন এখন উন্নত ধৰণৰ হাস্পিতেল কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে হাতত লৈছেনে ?

(খ) যদি লৈছে, কেতিয়া কাম আৰম্ভ কৰা হব ?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV (Minister, Health) replied:

166. (a)—No. There is only a State Dispensary at Baruaogaon. It is not proposed to convert any State Dispensary into Hospital at this stage due to paucity of funds as well as non-availability of medical and para-medical personnel.

(b)—Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Re. Status of Sub-Registrars of Assam

Shri M. A. MUSAWWIR CHAUDHURY asked:

200. Will the Minister-in-charge of Registration be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Sub-Registrars of the State of Assam are given the status of gazetted Officers ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) Whether it is also fact that the recommendations of the last Pay Committee for giving them higher scale of pay and service rank have not been implemented ?

(d) If so, why ?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB (Minister, Registration) replied:

200. (a)—Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c)—The revised scale of pay recommended by the last Pay Committee has already been given.

The Pay Committee however did not agree to merge or equate the post of Sub-Registrars with A. C. S. II.

(d)—Does not arise.

Re: Income from Country Liquor in Lakhimpur, Sibsagar and Darrang Districts

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA asked:

201. Will the Minister, Excise be pleased to state—

(a) What is the total income out of country liquor shops during 1964, 1965 and 1966 in Lakhimpur, Sibsagar and Darrang Districts?

(b) What is the Government price for different kinds of liquor and the selling price to the consumers?

(c) Whether Government is aware that liquor is sold to the consumers at a much higher price?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH (Minister, Excise) replied:

201. (a)—

		1964-65	1965-66	1966-67
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Darrang	..	25,51,051	25,69,827	29,10,614
Sibsagar	..	49,09,422	67,56,803	83,58,121
Lakhimpur	..	68,22,380	78,64,629	91,65,773

(b)—Government price of country spirit prevalent in the District of Sibsagar, Lakhimpur and Darrang is as shown below:—

Selling price, *i.e.* retail price to the consumers.

(1) Dibrugarh Sub-division.	Duty Rs.8.0 per L. P.L. Cost Price Re.1.00 per L. P. L.	} 30 U. P. Rs.5.77 paise per bottle of 750 ml.
(2) Jorhat and Golaghat Subdivision.	Duty Rs.8.10 per L. P. L. Cost price Re.1.00 per L. P. L.	
(3) Sibsagar ..	Duty Rs.8.07 per L.P.L. Cost price Re.1.00 per L. P.L.	} 60 U. P. Rs.3.37 paise per bottle of 750 ml.
(4) North Lakhimpur Subdivision.	Duty Rs.7.67 Per L.P.L. Cost price Re.1.00 per L. P. L.	
5, Darrang District	Duty Rs.8.04 per L.P.L. cost price Rs.0.66 paise per L. P. L.	} 60 U. P. Rs.3.13 paise per bottle of 750 ml.

(c)—No.

Re: Liquor Manufacturing at Barpeta

Shrimati PRANITA TALUKDAR asked:

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

- Whether Government is aware that there is liquor manufacturing daily by private persons in Barpeta Subdivision ?
- If so, what steps have been taken by the Government to prevent such manufacturing of liquor in this Subdivision ?
- Whether liquor is selling openly in Barpeta Subdivision ?
- If so, whether Government will make a thorough enquiry into this matter and take appropriate action ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH (Minister, Excise) replied :

202. (a)—Government have no such information but existence of illicit distillation is not denied .

(b)—Whenever any information of cases of illicit distillation of liquor comes to the notice of Excise staff, raids are carried out and the

offenders are prosecuted according to law. Frequent patrolling is also carried out by the Excise staff to prevent and check illicit distillation of liquor.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

Re: Posting of Doctor at Sumonigaon State Dispensary

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA asked:

203. Will the Minister, Health be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is any doctor posted at Sumonigaon State Dispensary at Golaghat ?

(b) If so, the name of the doctor ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the doctor does not stay in the Headquarters ?

(d) Whether it is also a fact that the doctor did not visit the said dispensary for the last three months ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that the local people lodged a complaint with the Civil Surgeon, Sibsagar ?

(f) If so, what steps Government have taken in this regard ?

(g) Whether Government will be pleased to transfer the doctor from the dispensary and appoint another doctor there ?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV (Minister, Health) replied:

203. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Dr. Abdul Khaleque, A. S. II.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No.

(e)—yes.

(f)—Enquiry is being made.

(g)—No.

Re: Fencing of Barpeta Town Civil Hospital

Shri ATAUR RAHMAN asked:

204. Will the Minister, Health be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the compound of Barpeta Town Civil Hospital is enclosed by fencing ?

- (b) Whether it is a fact that a part of the premises of the said Hospital is used as Bus Stand ?
- (c) Whether it is also a fact that the T. B. Ward is also attached in the same premises and whether it is dangerously exposed for want of fencing ?
- (d) Whether the Minister concerned and the Chief Minister had during their visits to Barpeta assured of a permanent fencing for the said Hospital ?
- (e) Whether funds have been allotted for the purpose ?
- (f) If not, whether Government will be pleased to take immediate steps in this regard ?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV (Minister, Health) replied :

204. (a)—No. Except in the front side.

(b)—Sometimes some buses park inside Hospital compound at the place adjacent to bus stand .

(c)—There is no fencing around T. B. Ward;

(d)—The Chief Minister and the then Health Minister noted the urgent requirement of fencing the entire hospital compound.

(e)—Due to meagre provision in the last year's budget no fund could be allotted.

(f)—Yes, temporary barbed wire fencing has been started all around the hospital compound .

Re: Singri State Dispensary threatened by erosion of the River Brahmaputra

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS asked:

205. Will the Minister, Health be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that the Singri State Dispensary Buildings being threatened with erosion by the Brahmaputra had to be dismantled and removed to a safer place in the year 1963 ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that a site was selected, plan and estimate prepared and submitted for administrative approval about 3 years back ?
- (c) If so, what are the reasons for not constructing the dispensary buildings up till now ?
- (d) Whether Government will be pleased to expedite construction of the buildings without further delay ?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV (Minister, Health) replied:

205. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Due to paucity of fund.

(d)—Plan and estimates are under examination and the administrative approval will be accorded according to availability of funds.

Re: Affected Districts by Cyclone

Shri BHADRA KANTA GOGO asked:

206. Will the Minister-in-charge, Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) The Districts affected by Cyclone on 30th April 1967 and 1st May, 1967 ?

(b) Number of human lives lost (District-wise)?

(c) Number of Cattle lost (District-wise)?

(d) Value of properties lost (District-wise)?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Minister, Revenue) replied:

206 (a)—1. Lakhimpur	..	Dibrugarh Subdivision only.
2. Sibsagar	..	All 3 Subdivisions.
3. Nowgong	..	....
4. Kamrup	..	Gauhati Subdivision only.
5. Goalpara	..	Goalpara and Dhubri Subdivisions.
6. Cachar	..	Hailakandi and Karimganj Subdivisions.
7. Garo Hills.	..	.. ..
(b)—1. Lakhimpur	..	..
2. Sibsagar	..	1 No.
3. Goalpara	..	2 Nos.
	..	3 Nos.
Total	...	<hr/> 5 Nos. <hr/>

(c)—1. Lakhimpur	..	..	.. 350 Nos.
2. Sibsagar	..	..	.. 2 Nos.
3. Nowgong	..	..	.. 1 No.
4. Goalpara	..	..	.. 4 Nos.
5. Cachar	..	..	.. 46 Nos.
6. Garo Hills	..	..	.. 4 Nos.

Total 407 Nos.

			Rs.
(d)—1. Lakhimpur	..	..	.. 46,500
2. Sibsagar	..	..	.. 88,305
3. Nowgong	..	..	.. 1,50,000
4. Kamrup	..	..	.. 12,600
5. Goalpara	..	..	.. 2,49,795
6. Cachar	..	..	.. 77,305
7. Garo Hills	..	..	.. 80,000
Total	..	..	.. 7,04,505

Re: Construction of Matia Circle Office

Shri BENOY KRISHNA GHOSE asked:

207. Will the Minister, Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that site for the construction of Matia Circle Office has already been finally selected at Matia ?
- (b) Whether the Matia Circle Office has been temporarily housed at Goalpara town in rented house ?
- (c) Whether it is not possible to shift the said Circle Office from Goalpara to Matia to some rented house there ?
- (d) If not, why ?
- (e) When the said Circle Office will be shifted to Matia ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Minister, Revenue) replied:

207. (a)—The location of Headquarters of the Matia Circle is under consideration.

(b)—Yes.

(c) & (d)—No suitable house is available at Matia on rent.

(e)—The shifting of the Circle Office is under the active consideration of Government and land for the purpose has been selected. The shifting will take place as soon as a final decision in the matter is taken.

Re: Government Approved Cement Dealers

Shri BHADRESWAR GOGOI asked:

208. Will the Minister, Supply be pleased to state—

(a) অসমত কিমানজন চিমেন্ট চৰকাৰী এজেন্সি আছে ?

(b) কোন জিলাত কিমান জন আছে ?

(c) এজেন্সি বিলাকে কি ব্যৱস্থাবে চিমেন্ট বিক্ৰী কৰে ?

(d) এই এজেন্সি বিলাকে বিভিন্ন বেণাৰী নানত কেছ মেমো কাটি চোৰাংকৈ চিমেন্ট বিক্ৰী কৰাৰ কথা চৰকাৰে জানেনে ?

(e) যদি নেজানে, এই নগ্নে অনুসন্ধান কৰিবনে ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH (Minister, Supply) replied:

208. (a)—Government of India decontrolled Cement with effect from 1st January 1966. In pursuance of the policy of the Government of India the State Government of Assam rescinded the Assam Cement Control and Distribution Order, 1953 and the Assam Cement Control and Distribution (Amendment) Order, 1965 with effect from 4th February 1966. As such there is no registered Cement dealer under the control of Government since 4th February 1966.

(b), (c), (d) and (e)—Do not arise in view of the reply at (a) above.

Re: Installation of Rice Mills by the Food Corporation of India

Rani MANJULA DEVI asked:

209. Will the Minister, Supply be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that the Food Corporation of India propose to install 24 Modern Rice Mills in different States ?

(b) If so, whether the Government have approached the Food Corporation of India for installation of one such Mill in Assam ?

(c) If so, when do they propose to install the mill ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH (Minister, Supply) replied:

209. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

Re: Closing of Tea Gardens by Brahmaputra Tea Company

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS asked:

210. Will the Minister, Labour be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Brahmaputra Tea Company have closed down Negheriting, Balijan, Missamara and Karunating Gardens on the plea of loss in the years 1965, 1966-67?
- (b) If so, what is the number of tea labourers affected by such lockout?
- (c) Whether any enquiry was made into the matter with a view to ascertain the plea of loss taken by the management that it was justified?
- (d) If so, what is the result?
- (e) Whether two hon. Members of the State Assembly had to go on fast owing to the adamant attitude of the management?
- (f) Whether Government had intervened in the matter?
- (g) If so, what is the result?
- (h) Whether the lock-out was withdrawn and the labourers have been allowed to work?
- (i) Whether the matter was finally settled?
- (j) If so, the details of the settlement?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied:

210. (a)—The Brahmaputra Tea Estates closed down Negheriting and Balijan Tea Estates on 7th April 1965 for economic reasons. The gardens were, however, re-opened on 10th May 1965 on basis of a bilateral agreement between the Proprietor, Shri R. G. Saharia and the representatives of Brahmaputra Tea Company Cha Sramik Sangha, Messamara and Karunating Tea Estates of Brhmaputra Tea Estates were not closed down in 1965 but the management declared a lock-out with effect from 21st April 1965 in these two Tea Estates, because of apprehension of

violence as the garden office was surrounded by an unruly mob threatening violence over the management's proposal to introduce the new task rates in these gardens. The lock-out was, however, lifted from 8th May 1965 as a result of a bilateral agreement between the Proprietor of Brahmaputra Tea Estates and the representatives of Brahmaputra Tea Company Cha Sramik Sangha.

There was no closure of these Tea Estates in 1966. In January 1967 the Negheriting Tea Estate and its out-garden Baliyan, were locked-out following an assault on the managerial staff by the workers.

(b)—One thousand five hundred workers were affected by the lock-out in Negheriting Tea Estate and its out-garden, Baliyan in January 1967.

(c)—Does not arise as all the gardens of Brahmaputra Tea Estates are now running.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Two Members of the Legislative Assembly went on hunger strike demanding re-opening of the gardens.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—The gardens were re-opened.

(h)—Yes.

(i)—Yes.

(j)—The gardens re-opened with 1,500 workers on 22nd April 1967. It was agreed that 300 of the workers would be transferred to the other gardens under the same management within a month. As regards lock-out period wage, the issue has already been referred for adjudication and the workers agreed to wait for the decision of the Court.

Re: Completion of State Board Office Building at Goramur, Majuli

Shri MOHIDHAR PEGU asked:

211. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

(a) The date on which the buildings for the office of the State Board, Majuli at Goramur was completed ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the said buildings have not been opened up till now ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the office of the State Basic Board in Majuli is running in a rented house incurring heavy expenditure in paying rents for these houses ?

(d) Whether Government propose to open the new office buildings at Goramur ?

(c) If not, why ?

Shri JAY BHADRA HAGJER (Minister, Education) replied:

211. (a)—The construction of the Office Building of the Assistant Secretary, Education Board was completed towards the end of June 1966 at Goramur.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The office of the Assistant Secretary is now housed in a building on a rent of Rs.118.00 pre month.

(d)—Yes,.

(e)—Does not arised.

Re: Taking over of Tea Garden Schools by Government

Shri MATHIUS TUDU asked:

212. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether all the Tea Garden Schools will be taken over by the Government ?

(b) If so, when ?

(c) How many Tea Garden Schools are there in the State ?

Shri SAYED AHMED ALI (Minister of State, Education) replied:

212. (a)—Government intention is to take over all the Garden Lowe Primary Schools in a gradual process. As a first step it has been decided to take over the Schools in the districts of Cachar and Sibsagar. The terms of taking over these Schools are being processed.

(b)—The Schools in the Cachar and Sibsagar Districts will be taken over as soon as the terms are finalised.

(c)—796 (Lower Primary Schools).

Re: Housing the National Theatre in Rabindra Bhawan: Gauhati

Dr. BHUPEN HAZARIKA asked:

213. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that on 3rd July 1966, the Secretary, Assam Jatiya Natyasala Andolon Samiti met the then Education Minister along with a member of the Samiti and requested him to allow a deputation to wait on behalf of the Andolon Samiti ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that he agreed and he was to inform the date of meeting such a deputation ?

(c) If so, whether any such information was sent ?

(d) If not, why ?

(e) Whether it is also a fact that the then Education Minister agreed to house the National Theatre in the Rabindra Bhawan, Gauhati ?

(f) If so, why that was not done ?

Shri JAY BHADRA HAGJER (Minister, Education) replied:

213. (a)—Government have no information.

(b)—Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) & (d)—Does not arise.

(e)—There is nothing in Government records about this.

(f)—Does not arise.

Re: Bridge on river Puthimari

Shri KAMINI MOHAN SARMA asked:

214. Will the Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B.) be pleased to state—

(ক) মাননীয় গড়কাপ্তানী বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে জনাবনে কামৰূপ জিলাৰ বড়িয়া চৰ্কোঁলৰ বড়িয়া গৰেশ্বৰ বাস্তাব পুঠিমাৰী নদীৰ দলং খনৰ নিৰ্মাণ কাৰ্য্য আজি এবছৰে আৰম্ভ নকৰাৰ কাৰণ কি ?

(খ) কেতিয়ালৈ ইয়াৰ নিৰ্মাণ কাৰ্য্য আৰম্ভ কৰা হব ?

Shri ALTAF HOSSAIN MAZUMDAR [(Minister of State, P. W.D (R. & B.))] replied:

214. (a) & (b)—The existing bridge was damaged beyond repair during the flood of 1966 and outflanked due to change in the course of the river Puthimari. The course of the river will have to be watched for some time before a bridge can be constructed.

Re: Land lying fallow outside the Brahmaputra dyke in Majul

Shri MOHIDHAR PEGU asked:

215. Will the Minister, P. W. D. (F. C. & I. Wing) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that a vast area of arable land has been lying fallow outside the Brahmaputra dyke from Tekelifuta to Bessamara in Majuli ?

(b) Whether Government has received any representation from the public concerned regarding construction of a bund from Digholgarah to Ratanpur (Kathamia) to reclaim the said area and to give benefit to the adjoining landless cultivators ?

(c) If so, what steps have been taken by the Government ?

Shri MOHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Minister-in-charge, Flood Control etc.) replied:

215. (a) —Yes, there are some areas outside the Brahmaputra dyke from Tekelifuta to Bessamara near Haildhibari.

(b)—Yes.

(c) The proposal is under investigation.

Re: Primary Health Unit at Gohpur

Shri BISHNULAL UPADHAYA asked:

216. Will the Minister, Health be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the plan and estimates for construction of Primary Health Units at Gohpur has been finalised ?

(b) What is the total estimated cost of the building ?

(c) Whether administrative approval has been accorded ?

(d) If not, when it is expected ?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB (Minister, Health) replied:

216. (a)—No.

(b)—About Rs.1.50 lakhs.

(c)—No.

(d)—Administrative approval will be accorded as soon as the plan and estimates are finalised and funds are available.

Re: Allotment of Primary Health Unit at Mandia

Shri ATAUR RAHMAN asked:

217. Will the Minister, Health be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Mandia Community Development Block has been allotted Primary Health Unit ?

- (b) Whether the Mandia Anchalik Panchyat as asked for has provided a site above flood level for the purpose ?
- (c) Whether the work of construction of the buildings for the proposed Primary Health Unit has started ?
- (d) If not, why ?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB (Minister, Health) replied:

217. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d)—Paucity of funds and delay in finalising plan and estimate.

Re: Conversion of Barama State Dispensary into Primary Health Unit.

Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS asked:

218. Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Barama State Dispensary will be converted into a Primary Health Unit ?

(b) If so, whether the plan and estimate have been submitted for administrative approval of the Department ?

(c) If so, when the construction work will be started ?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB (Minister, Health) replied:

218. (a)—Site for Primary Health Centre has been selected at Barama.

(b)—The plan and estimate have not been finalised.

(c)—On finalisation of plan and estimate subject to availability of funds.

Re: New Pay Scales of S. D. M. and H. O.

Shri ROMESH MOHAN KULI asked:

219. Will the Minister, Health be pleased to state whether Government is aware that the S.D. M. and H. O. including those who are in charge of Jails serving under Assam Health Services are not getting their new pay scale according to the recommendation of the Pay Committee, 1964 ?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB (Minister, Health) replied:

219. Yes. They could not draw their pay in the new scale as the posts were not created. The posts have now been created and they will draw their pay in the new scale now with effect from 1st April 1964 or from the date of holding the post, whichever is later.

Re: Allotment of Primary Health Unit in the Rupasie C. D. Block

Shri ATAUR RAHMAN asked:

220. Will the Minister, Health be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Rupasie C. D. Block in Barpeta Subdivision has been allotted a Primary Health Unit ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Rupasie Anchalik Panchayat has provided necessary land for the purpose contiguous with the plot of land on which the Kalgachia State Dispensary stands ?
- (c) Whether it is also a fact that the Rupasie Anchalik Panchayat has similarly ear-marked funds for construction of building for the purpose ?
- (d) Whether construction of buildings for the proposed Primary Health Unit has started ?
- (e) If not, why ?

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEB (Minister, Health) replied:

220. (a)—Site for Primary Health Centre in Rupasie C. D. Block in Barpeta Subdivision for a Primary Health Centre was selected at Kalgachia in March, 1963.

(b) —Land for the Primary Health Centre at Kalgachia was handed over by the Rupasie Anchalik Panchayat in November 1963.

(c)—Government has no information. It is not necessary that the Anchalik Panchayat should ear-mark funds for construction of building as the construction is done by P. W. D.

(d) & (e)—The construction of buildings has not started due to delay in finalising plan and estimates and paucity of funds.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Re: Importation of food to India due to war in the Near East

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :

Maulana A. MUSAWWIR CHAUDHURY: Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply, be pleased to State—

3. (a) Whether Government is aware that as a result of the War in the Near East importation of food to India including Assam, will be greatly jeopardised ?

- (b) Whether the Government of Assam is in a position to take the full responsibility of feeding the entire labour population of Assam including the Central Government employees, Centrally-run-Corporations employees and the Foreign Exchange Earning Industries' employees like tea, etc. ?
- (c) If not, what urgent and extraordinary measures do the Government propose to take to meet this unforeseen situation ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH Minister Supply replied:

(a) Importation of foodstuff into the country is a subject handled by the Government of India, but the State Government is aware that arrival of ships carrying food will be delayed as a result of the war in the Middle East.

(b) Government has taken all possible steps to meet the situation.

(c) Delay in food arrivals affects Assam only as regards supply of imported wheat, and Government is trying to meet the shortfall in wheat supply by intensifying the paddy procurement drive.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, the Minister has said that the Government has taken all possible steps to avert the difficulty. May we know some of those steps ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH: As I said, we have intensified the paddy procurement drive. The hon. Member knows that this has been discussed fully in this House during the answers to questions as well as during the debate on food. We are trying our utmost to impress upon the Central Government on this point.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Before this war, the target of paddy procurement was one crore and odd maunds. Now naturally because of the war the Government must have whipped up the target and it must be higher and procurement must be more. Now, what is the procurement beyond one crore of maunds as a result of this whipping up operation ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH: We have not of course raised our procurement target beyond one crore maunds but we hope to increase the procurement quantity.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: At any rate, has it reached one crore or what is the target which has been reached ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH: We have completed about 30 lakh maunds out of a target of one crore.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Thitry lakh maunds out of a target of one crore. And the Government think that this is all that was possible under the circumstances ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH: This is so and I have explained to the House several times.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN: Sir, may we know with regard to the supply of wheat how far this State Government has succeeded in impressing upon the Central Government ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH: The Central Government has doubled the quantity that was supplied in May.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN: May we know what was the quantity of wheat that has been sent to Cachar District ?

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise here.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Is it a fact that the supply is half of what was supplied last year ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH: No, this was double that of last year.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Whether it is a fact that in the news-item published on the 24th in the *Hindusthan Standard* wherein in reply to a calling attention notice given by Shri Hem Barua in the Parliament, the Union Food Minister Shri Jagjivan Ram has blamed the Government of Assam for failing to procure paddy and thereby creating scarcity in Assam ? If so, what is the reaction of this Government ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH: No, Sir, they have said only that Assam's procurement performance is not satisfactory.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Is it not a fact that there ought not to be any scarcity in Assam if procurement was proper and adequate ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH: I do not think he has said exactly in that way.

Mr. SPEAKER: It may be that the Food Corporation of India was given a charge very late.

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY: May we know whether wheat that was to be imported which normally comes through the Suez Canal but because of the war in the Middle East, that wheat will have to come through other ways, if so, how much longer will it take to arrive Assam than it would have taken before the closure of the canal ? What would be the probable time taken if it is coming through other ways ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH: We have been informed that it will take three weeks more than the normal time.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Is it a fact that huge quantity of foodgrains is smuggled from Assam to West Bengal ?

Mr. SPEAKER: How can you raise that question ?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Whether it is a fact that, as stated by the Union Minister for Food that the Government of Assam has fallen short of the expectation of procurement target, and on that ground, the Government of India is refusing to give more wheat to the State ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH: It is not a fact.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Sir, from the reply of the Minister we have been satisfied that there is no hope to get wheat.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Patwary, are you making a speech ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Sir, in view of all these facts, whether the Supply Minister will give a hit on the Chief Minister or on the E. & D. Minister to give facilities for growing more food in our State ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, what is the meaning of the word "hit" ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Whether the Supply Minister will make efforts to grow more food in our State ?

Mr. SPEAKER: But this is a subject of the Agriculture Minister. His question is whether the Supply Minister will use his good office to influence the Agriculture Minister ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH: Yes, Sir, it is our joint responsibility.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN: Sir, we have hardly two months ahead and we would be facing food crisis if the Central Government do not come to our help. May we expect that these two months' hardship will be tided over ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Of course, they will be tided over.

Re: An anonymous letter

Shri KAMINI MOHAN SARMA: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এটা কথা সদনত দাঙি ধৰিব খোজো যে পুলিচ বাজেটৰ কৰ্ত্তন প্রস্তাৱ সমৰ্থন কৰি খুল-মূল ভাবে কৈছিলো যে পুলিচ বিভাগত দেশায়বোধ জগাই তুলিব লাগে। দেশৰ গঠন-মলক কামতো বাতে এওঁলোকে সহায়ক হব পাৰে। মই কালি এই সদনতে বেনামী চিঠি এখন পালো যিখনে ব্যক্তিগত ভাবে মোক আৰু এই সদনৰো কেইজন মান মাননীয় সদস্যক আঘাট কৰিছে আৰু সমগ্ৰ সদনৰ নিৰাপত্তাৰ ওপৰত সন্দিহান কৰিছে।

চিঠিখন সৰ্বশ্ৰী হীৰালাল পাটোৱাৰী, কামিনী মোহন শৰ্ম্মা, শৈলেন মেধী আৰু ফনী ৰাউল লিখিছে। বিষয় হৈছে ১নং অসমত পুলিচ বিভাগৰ আমূল সংস্কাৰ আৰু ২নং পুলিচ বিভাগ came under heavy fire (in the Assam Tribune, dated 21-6-67).

মাননীয় মুখ্য পিকা বিবোধী দলৰ নেতাসকল। পুলিচ বাহিনীৰ বিৰুদ্ধে দিয়া আপোনা-লোকৰ মন্তব্যবোৰ পঢ়ি আনন্দিত হৈছে।

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Most probably it has been posted from Shillong.

Mr. Speaker : গোটেইখন পঢ়িব নেলাগে, সাৰাংশটো দিয়ক।

Shri KAMINI MOHAN SARMA: মই মাজে মাজে পঢ়ি দিওঁ। আপোনালোকে ভবিষ্যতে ভবি-চিন্তি চলা ফিৰা কৰিব। আপোনালোক মৰাৰ পিচতো শটোত কাবুলীৰ চাবুকৰ কোবৰ পৰা হাত সাৰিব নোৱাৰিব, ইত্যাদি নানান কুংসিং ভাবে কোৱা হৈছে। ইয়াৰ পৰা সদনৰ আত্মসন্মান লাঘব হৈছে। নিৰাপত্তাৰ ওপৰত সন্দেহ হৈছে।

(Shri Kamini Mohan Sarma then handed over the letter to Mr. Speaker)

Mr. SPEAKER: This letter is in the name of the Assam Police Bahini but nobody has signed it. However, I assure the hon. Members that I will hand this letter over to the Chief Minister to see what he can do with it.

I agree with the hon. Members that the freedom of speech in this House will always be given and nobody will be allowed to interfere with it. (Applause from the Opposition).

Shri PHANI BORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, however, we are not going to bother what this kind of people say. Nobody on earth can stop us from speaking what we feel just and right. Nobody's threatening wiu curb our speaking whatever the forces there may be behind this culpritt We have come here to speak the truth and we will speak it come what may. Nobody must have any illusion of the courage and conviction of the Members of the Opposite side.

Voting on Demands for Grants

Demand No.29—"35-Industries—III—Major Industries".

Mr. SPEAKER: Now the discussion on Voting on Demand on Industries will be resumed. Shri Bora may resume his speech.

Shri PHANI BORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yceaterday I raised an old question. I wanted to know the matter to be cleansed once for all and I placed certain facts before this august House, which was half done and which I want now to complete.

Sir, the conversion of the annual lease into periodic of the land belonging to Shri Deben Sarma, as stated in the connected file, "The rule for conversion lays down that, to be fit for conversion, land must be cultivated with permanent crop or must have permanent residence on it. But, neither of these conditions seem to be fulfilled in this case. In spite of this however, the Settlement Officer approved the suggestion of the Assistant Settlement Officer on the same day (8th June 1962), and

the payment of premium was made on 19th June 1962. Under these circumstances it appears that all these actions were not very regular. I now understand from the Settlement Officer and the Assistant Settlement Officer of Gauhati that this irregularity is one among many thousands in Gauhati which are now under re-enquiry. It is not known, therefore, whether the periodic patta will ultimately stand at all, and if so, it is not advisable in my view, for any Department of the Government to purchase this land for public purposes. C. M. may see to it and Shri Sarma may be informed that Government is not interested in this land".

Sir, this note was addressed to M. R. (Minister, Revenue) by the Secretary, Revenue Department on 14th November 1964. But I am surprised to see that the former Industries Minister should have influenced the Chief Minister bypassing the opinion of the Revenue Department. Here is the proof that such opinion was given by the Revenue Department. This note, referred to above, was sent to Chief Minister by the then Revenue Minister on 19th November 1964, but what the Chief Minister wrote on it:—

"Secretary Revenue,

M. I. told me that the Industries Department may be interested in the land. Would you please enquire of Industries Department.

Sd./- B. P. Chaliha.
8-10-65.

Sir, in spite of the fact that the Revenue Department expressed its opinion against purchase of this particular land, the Chief Minister insisted that the matter should be discussed with the Minister of Industries as the Industries Department might be interested in this land. Thus the green signal was given by the Chief Minister for the purchase of the land.

Then the Revenue Secretary wrote a D. O. No. RSS.348/63/18, to Secretary, Industries as follows:—

Dated 14th October 1965

"My dear Trivedy,

"Shri D. N. Sarma, MLA., Gauhati intends to sell his periodic patta land measuring an area of 39B. 1K. 2L. of dag Nos. 53/426 of village Dakhingaon either to Government or to any other private parties. The land is situated just near the Lokra-Gauhati Road. It is understood that the Minister, Industries told Chief Minister that the Industries Department may be interested in the land.

Would you please let us know whether the Industries Department is interested in the land ?

With regards.

Yours sincerely,
Sd./- J. N. Das."

And then, Sir, the Deputy Secretary, Industries Department wrote D. O. No.M.157/65/8, dated 1st December 1965, to the Secretary, Revenue Department as follows:—

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the D. O. letter referred to above and to say that the Industries Department is interested in the land".

Sir, this is how the Industries Department came to take this land of Shri Deben Sarma, the then M. L. A. and a Congress Leader. Not only this land, Sir, the Industries Department wrote another letter to the Settlement Officer, Kamrup, Gauhati, No.RSS.348/63/27, dated 25th January 1966 as follows:—

Sir,

I am directed to say that Industries Department wants a plot of Sarkari land measuring about 50/60 bighas adjacent to the land under dag No.53/426 of Shri Debendra Nath Sarma, M. L. A. at Dakhingaon.

I am to request you to report at an early date whether such land is available."

Sir, the Industries Department thus took the land of Shri Deben Sarma, which was taken by him paying a small premium of only Rs.196.00 which land was converted into periodic patta land by this Shri Deben Sarma's influence because he was the then M.L.A. and a prominent Congress Leader and for the payment of Rs.196.00 for this land, for his investment of Rs.196.00 on this land, he realised from the Government a sum of Rs.1,50,000. Sir, this is a very lucrative business and this shady business was done with the full knowledge and concurrence of the Congress Government.

Now this fact is known to everybody in the country. The people are under the impression, as has been sought to be created by the Hon. Chief Minister, that this money has already been paid back. But in fact he has not paid the money back till now and thereby he has deceived the Government of the people of the State. I want to know from the Government about the decision taken on this matter to bring the culprit to the book. I want a clear-cut reply from the Government so that this shameful episode may be brought to an end once for all, no matter what kind of person he may be, whatever position he may be holding in society, no matter whether he is a Congressman or somebody else. If he is really guilty of deceiving the Government, deceiving the people, well, whoever he may be, he deserves to be exposed and the guilty man brought to book, condemned and castigated so that it may be a lesson to the social sharks and parasites thriving on deceit and dishonesty.

In this connection I feel to speak a few words about the Industries Department which is also involved in squandering away public money realised from the common people by way of taxes and revenues. Government has no right to open up opportunities to some

men to make money and getting rich over-night. Sir, I refer to the contract of rifle-butt and tents poles taken by the Industries Department involving Government to a loss of about 2 crores of rupees. I do not mean to say that the contract by itself was bad. It was indeed a very good contract undertaken by the Department with the intention of helping the Government in its war efforts. It was therefore not an ordinary type of business undertaken with the sole motive of profit making. Therefore when the contract was not executed according to the terms of the contract, when the poles and the timbers were not according to the size and timbers were not supplied according to the specification and size, and that too by a department of the Government itself, then I hold that it is matter not merely of ordinary breach of the contract, it is more than that: it is a crime and an act of supreme disregard to all sense of patriotic feelings. Sir, while saying this, my intention is not to blame the Industrial Estate, or the Industries Department as a whole. But I feel inclined to lay the whole blame on the Director of the Industries Department as to my mind and from the information that I have been able to collect from the different sources, the whole contract was mismanaged by him in selecting some private parties as sub-contractors who in their turn, in collusion with some important officials of the Department, made a mess of the whole business in their greed for more and more money leading to the failure of the contract. Thus these parties deceived the Government. I know that there was some enquiry into this matter, and I want that the enquiry report be made known to the people immediately. I know some people connected with this matter were dismissed and some others suspended. But that is not enough. Because it is not an ordinary crime; it is a crime against the defence of the country. Therefore it should not be treated so lightly. We should be able find out those persons who were in league with the sub-contractors and thereby put the Government into a loss. I also understand that some private parties who were deprived of their dues are being harassed by the Sales Tax Department. These private parties have not yet got their dues, and so non-payment of sales tax is not their responsibility; if anybody is guilty for it, it is the department.

Sir, as far as I understand, there is a Mining Corporation, and one Shri S. K. Barua, a Member of the Royal School of Mining, London was the Director of this Corporation. He is a retired person with long years of experience on the line to his credit. He tried his level best to give a shape to the department and do some really good and important work. The idea of coal extraction at Nangalbibra was originally initiated by him. Then the Electricity Board took over this matter in 1964. But till to-day they have not been able to produce any result. The main obstacle in the matter of harnessing the coal deposit there is the want of communication facilities. Coal is not the only one item, but there are so many other natural resources in the neighbourhood of that area. But our Government has not yet been able to make any provision for their utilisation, even the project report of the industry has not been published. This Industry Department has not been able to make any contribution towards Industrial Development of the State. Now, we are talking of major industries without any major industry in the country. The pace of industrial development in our country even on this 20th year of our independence is such that now our Industries Department is a department without any industry worth the name to conduct and operate. Why it is so in spite of there being

so much resources in the country? I have some more things to say but unfortunately I do not have time enough. But I want to point out one thing. At page 282 of the Budget I find mention of a Central Store and an Emporium. Till 1965-66 we find some money ear-marked for these things. But this year we do not find anything. Nor there is any explanation about this omission. What has happened to this Emporium? Has it gone to somebody's hand or has it been handed over to some other agency? If this amount has been transferred for some other purposes, then this House is entitled to know about it. Has it been transferred to S. I. D. C.? But I have not been able to find any explanation on it. To my knowledge no approval of the House to spend this money for any other purpose was also taken. If the money is now sought to be utilised for any other purpose then it will be a violation of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in this House. Therefore I oppose this motion of passing of the Budget.

Shri GIASUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Cut Motion. I need hardly emphasise that Assam is full of industrial raw materials which must be utilised to the maximum for the industrial development of the State. Although agriculture is the most important factor, industry is equally important for economic growth of the State. Sir, we have a Department of Industry which is supposed to take all possible measures for industrial development of the State. Sir, I would like to refer to some of the failures of this Department. It is found that the capital investment in different industries is growing year after year since 1959. In 1959 the capital employed was 674.8 million rupees; in 1960 it was 772 million rupees; in 1961 it was 920 million rupees; in 1962 it was slightly less *i.e.*, 897 million rupees (and in 1963 it rose up to 1089.4 million rupees). So it will appear that capital investment in different industries is growing year after year. Now, Sir, my question is: What is the net result of this increase in capital employment? Has it added any substantial amount to our State's national income? I would like to submit, Sir, this has definitely not. The per capita income in 1950-51 was Rs.255.5; it rose to Rs.272.2 in 1965-66. This increase is very negligible in view of the vast expenditure that we have been incurring year after year for industrial development. So we can come to the conclusion that we have not achieved the expected result. Why? There must be something wrong somewhere. Let us try to find out. As a layman, I think one of the most important factors in the industrial development of the country is location of the right industry in the right place and to place the right man in the right place. One thing we must not forget. Although Assam as a whole is full of industrial raw materials, all the raw materials are not available in all parts of Assam. Some parts are specialised in some raw materials and others are not, and so on and so forth, for example, I want to submit that the district of Goalpara is a jute growing area. I think it is one of the biggest jute growing area not only in Assam but all over India. There is also a big forest. So far as forest is concerned, in the Goalpara district the out-turn of timber is 83,6000 cft. This is the highest in Assam. My point is that there are certain areas in which certain raw materials are available, and in those areas with some special raw materials some industries may be developed. I want to submit that in the Goalpara District some jute and forest based industries may be developed. It is a matter of great regret to say that nothing has been done in this respect. The District which

is one of the biggest jute growing area has not been taken into consideration for starting a Jute Mill there. The District which produces the highest number of timber has not been taken into consideration for starting forest-based industries there. So, these things must be taken into consideration, if we really want to make industrial development of the State. Then again there is another thing. I said that the right man should be placed at the right place. I am sorry to mention here that a gentleman has been appointed as the Director of Geology and Mining who was twice rejected by the Assam Public Service Commission. Subsequently, however, surreptitiously the same gentleman was appointed for the same post through the backdoor. I want to submit, Sir, this is not the way of industrial development of the State. A technical man and an expert must be appointed in the right place. If political consideration is there, if nepotism is there, no country can make industrial development in anyway. Yet, Sir, the appointment of this gentleman would not have been so much objectionable, had there been no other competent candidates. I understand there were other candidates also who were more qualified, more experienced; but their cases were rejected. Should I understand that only because his particular gentleman is the brother of a certain Minister he should get preference over others?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Minister, Industries): Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Member as to who were the other candidates who were more qualified and experienced than the one appointed as Director?

Shri GIASUDDIN AHMED: If the Hon'ble Minister wants the particulars, I can submit it to him.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you do not want to disclose, pass it over.

Shri GIASUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I would not like to make a long speech. I want to believe that our present Industries Minister is very eager to make a desperate attempt for industrial development of the State. If he is sincere let him remove bribery, corruption, etc., from this department. Favouritism and nepotism specially in the field of industry will ruin the industries. After all next to agriculture industry is the mainstay of our people. If the State is to survive, if economy is to survive and if we are to survive we must be industrially developed. So, I would like to suggest that the entire State be divided into several zones for several industries. Certain areas may be suitable for certain type of industries. I want to give an example. The district of Goalpara is most suitable for jute and forest-based industries. In other areas bamboo-based industries may be suitable and so on and so forth. Therefore, the whole State should be divided into certain Industrial Zones and attempts should be made accordingly.

Then, Sir, the appointment of Officers is another most important thing. We were investing millions and millions of rupees for industrial development, but if we do not get any out-turn, then what is the use of it? Ultimately we will be insolvent. So, these are my suggestions that the whole State should be divided into several zones and the appointment of Officers should be made properly and strict vigilance should be kept over the activities of this Department. We have heard

many things about corruption and other evils in this Department, and taking advantage of the fact that the Government is now-a-days interested in industrial development, many anti-social elements have come forward to take the opportunity and on this or that plea they are trying to take money in collusion with some corrupt officers. This should not be allowed to go on, and I would appeal to the hon. Industries Minister to be cautious about these dangers. If the Minister makes a sincere appempt, we will render our whole-hearted co-operation to him.

With these few words, I support the Cut Motion.

Shri SONESWAR BORA: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, স্বাধীনতাৰ আগত আৰু পিচতে! আমাৰ দেশত বহুত শিল্প প্ৰতিষ্ঠা হ'ল। কিন্তু এটা কথা ঠিক যে আমাৰ দেশৰ এনৰ মালিক, দেশৰ মালিক আৰু ৰাজনৈতিক মালিক সকল এটা শ্ৰেণীৰ ভিতৰতে আছে যেহেতু একে বিধ মানুহৰ ভিতৰতে এটা ক্ষমতা ন্যস্ত হৈ আছে। সেইবাবে শিল্প আৰু সমাজবাদ আৰু অধিকাৰৰ বেলা যথেষ্ট বাধাৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে। আমাৰ দেশত ১৮৩৫ চনতে চাহ শিল্প আৰম্ভ হৈছিল আৰু ১৮৩৮ চনত প্ৰথম অসম চাহ কোম্পানী গঠিত হয় বিলাতত। কিন্তু আমাৰ দেশৰ সমাজবাদী নেতা সকলে আজি ২০ বছৰেও সেই শিল্প উদ্ধাৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে। সেইদৰে ডিগবৈৰ তেলখাটেৰে ইংৰাজ সকলে আমাক শোষণ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছিল, তাৰ সমুদায় লাভ অলপ কৰ বাদে বিলাতলৈ যায়। আজি নাগিনীমৰা, জয়পুৰৰ কয়লায় বাহিৰৰ বজাৰ নেপায়, অথচ লিডুৰ কয়লা বাহিৰত যায় আৰু যথেষ্ট বজাৰ আছে। আজি চেৰাপুঞ্জিত যি Cement কাৰখানা হৈছে তাৰ বাবে যি জিনচক ৰাজস্থানৰ পৰা অনা হয় দিনে ৰাতিয়ে বৰষুণত উটি গৈছে। অন্য পদাৰ্থবোৰো তিতি নষ্ট হৈছে। কাৰণ গুদামৰ ব্যৱস্থা নাই। এইদৰে তিতা বস্ত্ৰৰ যিটো Cement হয় সেইটোৱে Cement ৰ আচল কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰে। দেখা গৈছে অসমৰ শিল্পক মাহী আইৰ সাদৰ দেখুৱা হৈছে। আগতে মই কৈছো যে অসমত তিনিও ক্ষমতা একেজন মানুহৰ হাতত থকাৰ কাৰণে এনে হবলৈ পাইছে। ইংৰাজৰ উপনিবেশ আৰু শিল্পৰ ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয়কৰণ কৰিবলৈ পিচ হ'লকিছে।

Fee Simple grant ৰ মাটি ৩৩ লাখ একৰ ইংৰাজ শিল্প পতিৰ হাতত আছে। তাৰে এক তৃতীয়াংশত চাহ গছ আৰু বাকীখিনি খেতিৰ উপযোগী মাটি। তাৰ বাবে সামান্য খাজানা দিয়ে। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে তাৰো সলনি কৰিব পৰা নাই। কিন্তু আমাৰ লগতে স্বাধীন হোৱা ব্ৰহ্মদেশে এই শিল্প ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয়কৰণ কৰিলে।

আমাৰ গোটেই উদ্যোগ ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয়কৰণ নকৰি দেশৰ শিল্পত কুঠাৰাঘাট কৰিছে। জনসাধাৰণে যেতিয়া আমাক ভোট দিছিল, তেতিয়া এখন ইস্তাহাৰ দিছিল—সেইমতে আমাক ভোট দিছিল। চৰকাৰে শিল্পৰ বিষয়ে কোনো চিন্তা কৰা নাই; আজি উত্তৰ প্ৰদেশৰ পৰা নিমখ আনি খায়, কিন্তু শিৱগাগৰৰ ওচৰতে লোনিৰ পুং আছে, ইয়াৰ পৰা নিমখ অনাটো বেচি সুবিধা। আশা কৰো সেই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে চিন্তা কৰিব—অসমৰ চাহ, কয়লা, তেল আদি ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয়কৰণ কৰা বিষয়ে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ আগত ডাঙি ধৰিব লাগে। যেতিয়া চৰকাৰে সমাজবাদৰ কথা কৈছে, অথচ সমাজবাদ কৰিব নোৱাৰে—অৰ্থনৈতিক, ৰাজনৈতিক উন্নতি কৰিবলৈ সম্পদ জাতীয়কৰণ কৰিব লাগিব।

ইয়াকে দোহাৰি মই সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

MOULANA ABDUL JALIL CHOWDHURY:

মহোদয়, বৃহত্তর শিল্প সম্বন্ধে বলার বিশেষ ইচ্ছা আমার ছিল না, কিন্তু কাজকে বিবোধী দলের কতিপয় সদস্যের বক্তৃতা শুনার পর আমি ভেবে দেখলাম দু' একটি কথা এবিষয়ে বলা কর্তব্য। এটা অতি সত্য যে দেশকে খাদ্য স্বয়ংসম্পূর্ণ করতে হলে কৃষির উন্নতি এবং কৃষির পরিকল্পনাকে আমাদের অগ্রাধিকার দিতে হবে। আর অর্থনৈতিক উন্নতি বা আর্থিক স্বয়ংসম্পূর্ণতা লাভ করতে হলে দেশে শিল্পের উন্নতি একান্ত প্রয়োজনীয়। আমার রাজ্যে তথা আমার প্রদেশে শিল্পের চেষ্টা ও উন্নতি হয় নাই, একথা আমি সমর্থন করবো না। দেশ স্বাধীন হওয়ার পর আমাদের আগাম সরকার এবং আগামের জনসাধারণ এই রাজ্যকে শিল্পে সর্বাঙ্গীন উন্নত করার জন্য উদগ্রীব, কারণ অর্থনৈতিক অনাটন আমাদের অত্যন্ত বেশী সেই আর্থিক অবনতি দূর করতে হলে শিল্পের উন্নতি একান্ত দরকার। কিন্তু আমাদের সেই চেষ্টা সক্রিয়ভাবে মন্ত্রণালয় উন্নতি লাভ করা উচিত ছিল তা করে নাই কেন?

সেকথা চিন্তা করতে গিয়ে আরো অনেকবার এই বিধানসভায় এই একই কথা বলেছি। বলেছি, Regional Disparity দূর করা আমাদের একান্ত কর্তব্য। দেশের অবনতি এলাকাগুলোতে, যেখানে জনসাধারণের জীবন ধারণের জন্য দৈনন্দিন জীবনে কৃষি ভিন্ন কোন বিকল্প ব্যবস্থা নেই সেসব অঞ্চলে শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠা করা একান্ত ও অবশ্য প্রয়োজনীয়। সেদিক দিয়ে বিশেষ প্রয়োজনীয় একটি বিষয় যার দিকে আমি অনেকবার আমাদের সরকারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করেছি যে, গীমান্তবর্তী জেলাগুলিকে যেমন গোয়ালপাড়া, উত্তর লক্ষ্মীপুর, কাছাড়—এইসব এলাকাতে বৃহত্তর শিল্প যদি প্রতিষ্ঠা না করা হয় তাহলে আমার মতে একদিকে দেশের নিরাপত্তার জন্য জনসাধারণের যে সহানুভূতি অবশ্য প্রয়োজনীয় সেটা থেকে তারা বঞ্চিত হবেন। এই সহানুভূতি পেতে হলে সেই অঞ্চল সমূহে শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠা করতে হবে, যেখানে কাজ করে ভিক্ষুক তার দৈনন্দিন জীবনযাপনের জন্য ভিক্ষা বৃত্তি তাগ করবে, এবং দিন মজদুরদের ও শিল্পের কাজে নিয়োজিত করলে জনসাধারণের সরকারের উপর বিশ্বাস ফিরে আসবে।

গীমান্তবর্তী এলাকার যেসব দোষের কথা অনেক সময় বিধান সভার সদস্য বৃন্দ বিশ্লেষণ করেন, সেই দোষ গুলি দূর করতে একমাত্র পন্থা হোল বৃহৎ শিল্পের প্রতিষ্ঠা করা, যে জায়গায় যে শিল্পের Raw materials বেশী সেই জায়গায় কেবল সেই শিল্প, প্রতিষ্ঠার ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে। অতএব যাহারা কার্যভাবে বিপরীত পথগামী হইছিল, সেই ক্ষমতা গুলোকে শিল্পে ব্যবহার করা। তাহলে দৈনন্দিন জীবন কাটাবার জন্য কালোবাজারী ও চোরাকারবার পথ পরিত্যাগ করে অনেকেই শিল্পের মাধ্যমে তাদের জীবন নির্বাহ করার একটা ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করতে পারবে। তাহলে চোরা কারবার ও কালো বাজারী মনোবৃত্তি পরিবর্তিত হবে। সেজন্য গীমান্তবর্তী এলাকায় বিশেষভাবে শিল্পায়নের ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।

১৯৫২ ইংরাজীতে একবার আমি কাছাড় জেলায় কাগজের কল স্থাপনের কথা বিধান সভায় প্রস্তাব এনেছিলেন, তখন জনৈক সদস্য (যিনি আজ এখানে নেই) বলেছিলেন গীমান্তবর্তী এলাকাতে কল প্রতিষ্ঠা করলে অনেক সময় বহিঃ শত্রুর আক্রমণে তা নষ্ট হতে পারে। তাহলে কি গীমান্তবর্তী এলাকাতে আক্রমণ ভয়ে কখনেই কিছু স্থাপিত হবে না, এটা কি ন্যায় সঙ্গত ও যুক্তিযুক্ত?

আমি শ্রীগিরাছুদ্দিন আহমদের সংগে একমত যে এলাকাতে যে কাচামাল আছে সেই এলাকায় সে জাতীয় শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠা করা দরকার। গতকাল জনৈক সদস্য বলেছেন পরীক্ষা মূলক ভাবে এই টাকা খরচ করবো কেন? আমি তার সংগে একমত নই এজন্য যে এরদ্বারা জনসাধারণ অর্থ উপার্জন করতে পারবে। তাই আমার বক্তব্য পরীক্ষা

মূলকভাবে টাকা খরচ করতে হলে শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানে খরচ করা দরকার তাহলে দিন মজুর তার ভাগ পাবে উপরন্তু দেশে শিল্পায়ন প্রতিষ্ঠিত হবে।

মহাশয়, সৌভাগ্যক্রমে এই বিধান সভায় আমি চারবার নির্বাচিত হয়ে আসতে পেরেছি, কিন্তু এই সীমান্তবর্তী জেলা কাছাড়ের লোক বিশ বছর যাবৎ কাগজের কলের অপেক্ষায় বসে আছে। অনেকে হয়তো বলতে পারেন আমি শুধু আমার জেলার কথা বলছি। এই কলের প্রতিষ্ঠা সম্বন্ধে আমি বিধান সভায় দু'টি আকর্ষণীয় সুচক প্রস্তাব করেছি। তখনকার শিল্প মন্ত্রী বলেছিলেন, কাছাড়ে সম্প্রদায়িক হা মার জন্য কাগজের কল করা হয় নি। সর্বত্রই সমাজের একদল কর্তৃহীন লোক সাধারণতঃ এসব দাঙ্গা হাঙ্গামায় অংশ গ্রহণ করে। শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠা করে সমাজের বেকার লোকের যদি কাজে নিয়োগ করা যায় তাহলে এরা হাঙ্গামা করতে যাবে না।

জাপান থেকে বিশেষজ্ঞ (যাহারা এচিয়ার অন্যতম) এনেও কাছাড়ে কাগজের কল প্রতিষ্ঠা করার ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বিত হোল না অথচ সেই জাপানী কোম্পানী "ই" নাকি আমাদের প্রতিবেশী রাষ্ট্রে কাগজের ২টি কল এই কয়েক বৎসরের ভিতর রাঙ্গামাটি কর্ণ-পুলীতোস্থাপন হইয়াছে বলিয়া বিশ্বস্ত সত্রে জানা গিয়াছে। এবং আজ পর্যন্ত কল চলছে। অথচ কাছাড়ে সেই কোম্পানীই কেন এরকম কল বসাইতে পারেন নাই তার গুঢ় রহস্য আমি জানিতে চাই। এবং আসামবাগী তথা কাছাড় বাগী তা উপলব্ধি করিতে চাই।

আমি একবার রেল যাবার সময় একজন Private বিশেষজ্ঞের সঙ্গে সাক্ষাৎ হয়েছিল। আমি তাকে জিজ্ঞাসা করলাম এই কলের বাস্তবতার বিষয়ে। তিনি বললেন, এখানে কাগজের শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠার প্রধান অসুবিধা হোল যাতায়তের অসুবিধা। বাহির থেকে ঐ কল পরিচালনার প্রয়োজনীয় জিনিষাদি আসবে তা আনা ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য কাছাড়ের সংগে একমাত্র রেলপথ পাহাড় লাইন এবং মটরের রাস্তা জোয়াই-বদরপুর মোটির রাস্তা—অবশিষ্ট ভারতের সংগে স্থলপথে এই দুটি পথ। এই দুটি রাস্তাই বর্ষকালে প্রায়ই বন্ধ থাকে। আনবার প্রথম, দ্বিতীয়, তৃতীয় এবং চতুর্থ পরিকল্পনায় কাছাড় জেলার সংগে অবশিষ্ট ভারতের যোগাযোগের বিকল্প রাস্তার কথা বলে এসেছি। ১৯৫২ সালে যখন এই প্রস্তাব উত্থাপিত হয়েছিল তখনও যদি তা গৃহীত হোত তাহলে অন্ততঃ পক্ষে রাজধানীর সংগে যাতায়ত ব্যবস্থা ভাল হওয়ার স্বকীয় ব্যবস্থা অন্ততঃ আমরা দেখিতে পাইতাম, ইহাও দেখিতে পায় নাই বলে অঞ্চলবাসী জনগনের মনে সরকারের বৈমাতৃ মূলতঃ মনোভাব বলিয়া বিবেচনা স্বাভাবিক। মূলতঃ একটি রাস্তার ওপর কাছাড়ের খাদ্য দ্রব্য রাজ্যের অবশিষ্টাংশ থেকে আনার একমাত্র পথ থাকার দরুণ প্রতি বছর, বিশেষতঃ গত বছরে দীর্ঘকাল রেলপথ বন্ধ থাকার দরুণ এখানে নিদারুণ খাদ্য সমস্যা দেখা দিয়াছিল।

কাগজের কল প্রতিষ্ঠার বিপক্ষে কাছাড়ের ভৌগলিক অবস্থাও খানিকটা দায়ী। এই অবস্থার জন্য কোন Private party এখানে কাগজের কলে অর্থ ব্যয় করতে সাহস করেনা। এর একদিকে পাকিস্তান, একদিকে তিব্বত, আরেকদিকে মিজো পাহাড়। এই কাছাড়ে কাগজের কল প্রতিষ্ঠা হইয়া গেলামিজো ভাইরা সেই কারখানার কার্যরতঃ হয়ে যেতো তাহলে আমার বিশ্বাস মিজো পাহাড়ের জনসাধারণ এতো Hostile হতো না। তারা দৈনন্দিন জীবন জাপনের কাজে রত থাকত। তাহারা বিড়ম্বনার পথে অগ্রসর হোত না। সরকার প্রণোদিত্রে বলেছেন, শীঘ্র ব্যবস্থা নেবেন, কি ব্যবস্থা নেবেন, তাহারাই জানেন। আমার কর্তব্য জনসাধারণের দাবী উত্থাপন করা এবং ইহা বার বার উত্থাপন করিব এবং ইহা হাসিল করার জন্য কাছাড়ের প্রতিনিধি গণ সর্বপ্রকার ত্যাগ স্বীকার করিবেন।

Industry ও Integration একই সংগে থাকা দরকার। কিন্তু প্রতি

ক্ষেত্রে সংহতির অভাব। একজন সদস্য বলেছেন, Inspector একজনকে এই উদ্দেশ্যে নিয়োগ করা হয়েছে। ভালো কথা। কোন শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠিত হলে তার কাজ কর্ম নিদিষ্ট পথে অগ্রসর হচ্ছে কিনা পরীক্ষা করে দেখলে প্রতিষ্ঠানের উন্নতি হবে। এবং দেশে কল্যাণকামী রাষ্ট্র প্রতিষ্ঠা হবে। কিন্তু কার্যতঃ সংহতির অভাবের জন্য শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠার সামঞ্জস্যর অভাব দেখি।

উদাহরণ স্বরূপ একটি শিল্প সংস্থার কথা আমি বলছি। ১৯৫৭ সালে আমাদের মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বদরপুর থেকে নির্বাচিত হয়েছিলেন। তিনি বলেছিলেন, সেখানে একটি ইণ্ডাস্ট্রিয়েল এস্টেট ও একটি Leather কারখানা স্থাপন করা হবে। ১৯৬১ সালে উক্ত কারখানাঘরের জন্য দালান নির্মাণ করা হোল। তাতে কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা খরচ হয়েছে। ১৯৬১ সালে দালান নির্মাণ হোল, আজ ১৯৬৭ সালেও সেসব দালানে নিদিষ্ট কারীগরী আরম্ভ হয় নাই। এই হচ্ছে কাছাড় তথা বদরপুরের শিল্প প্রসারের অবস্থা। অথচ কাছারকে industrialised করার জন্য অনেকবার আমরা সদস্যগণ, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের সংগে সভা করে আলোচনা করেছি। কাছাড়ের জন্য শিল্পায়নের ক্ষেত্রে কি পরিকল্পনা আছে, কতটা অর্থ চরকারে দিচ্ছেন। এসব পরিকল্পনা আমাদের হাতে দিলে আমরা দেখতাম জনসাধারণ আমাদের সহায়তা করতে পারে কিনা। আমাদের আশ্বাস দেওয়া হয়েছিল যে বদরপুর ইণ্ডাস্ট্রিয়েল এস্টেটের উদ্দেশ্যাবলীর কাগজ-পত্র ছাপা করে দেবেন, কিন্তু আজ পর্যন্ত তা দেওয়া হয় নি।

Industrial sale এর বিষয়ে আলোচনার জন্য ১৯৬১ সালে একটি বোর্ড স্থাপন করা হল, ১৯৬৪ সাল পর্যন্ত বোর্ডের কোন মিটিং ডাকা হয় নি। অনেক চিঠি লেখার পর ১৯৬৪ সালে কাছাড়ের জেলাধিপতি একটি সভা আহ্বান করেন। তিনি এই বোর্ডের Chairman কিন্তু পরে আর সভা ডাকা হয় নি।

বদরপুর অঞ্চলে যে আরগায় পাওয়ার লুম মিল রয়েছে, সেখানে একজন ম্যানেজার আছেন। Industrial Estate এর ব্যপার কিছু জানতে চাইলে তিনি বলেন যে, আসাম সরকারের কর্মচারী নন, তিনি Marketing Corporation এর কর্মচারী। ডিপুটি কমিশনারের সমুক্ষে তিনি এই জবাব দেন। তার কাছে কিছুই জানা যায় না।

এখানে কাপড় বোনা সেখার জন্য stipend দেওয়া হয়। যখন স্থানীয় সংখ্যা লবু সম্প্রদায়ের লোক সেখানে ভর্তি হয়ে যান, ম্যানেজারে বলেন আপনারা এখানে সুযোগ পাবেন না। যখন সংখ্যাগুরু সম্প্রদায়ের লোক যায়, তখন ম্যানেজার বলেন এটা আপনাদের জন্য নয়, উদ্বাস্তুদের জন্য এটা করা হয়েছে। আবার উদ্বাস্তু ছেলেরা গেলে বলেন, জলিল চাহাব এটা করেছেন, আপনাদের এখানে হবে না। এই হচ্ছে শিল্প সম্প্রসারণের দৃষ্টান্ত। উক্ত ম্যানেজার কার কর্মচারী আমি জানি না। আমি এখন শিলঙে আছি। রাজ্য সরকার তদন্ত করে দেখতে পারেন আমি সত্য বলেছি কিনা।

একটি কেলেক্টর মেশিন আজ দশ বৎসর যাবৎ রোড বৃষ্টির মধ্যে বাইরে পরে আছে, যেরে পর্যন্ত রাখা হয় নি। বিধান সভায় আমি প্রশ্ন আনার পর মেশিন যেরে রাখা হয়েছে, নতুন কন্যের মত বরের অপেক্ষায়। Leather tannery গৃহ করা হয়েছে, পাহারা দেওয়া, হইতেছে কাজ আরম্ভ হয় নি।

আমার মনে হয়, আমাদের যত শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান আছে সেসবের কাজ কর্ম ঠিকমতে চলছে কিনা তা দেখবার জন্য বছরের দু'একবার পরীক্ষা চালিয়ে সরকারকে রিপোর্ট দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত। তাহলে সরকারের পক্ষে সুবিধা ও অসুবিধা বিবেচনা করে তা দূর করতে সমর্থ হবেন।

কাছাড় জেলার কৰিমগঞ্জে কোন শিল্প বা industry গড়ে উঠে নি।

ছোট ছোট শিল্পের জন্য সরকারকে এগিয়ে আসতে হবে। আঞ্চলিক পরিকল্পনা ও মহকুমা পরিষদ এসব বিষয়ে সরকারকে পরিকল্পনা দেবেন। বৃহত্তর শিল্পের জন্য সরকারকে স্থানীয় লোকের সংগে সহযোগিতা করে অগ্রসর হওয়া দরকার।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Sir, the Chief Minister is not in the House and the Industries Minister also is not here ; while the hon. Member is giving the points, who will take note of them ?

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH: On behalf of the Industries Minister I am taking down the points.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order, Mr. Banikya will speak.

Shri KANDARPA NARAYAN BANIKYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Cut Motion raised by my friends, I beg to submit one experience. It was some time in the year of 1945 when I was going to Dhubri from Basugaon perchance I met an officer of the B.O.C. at Digboi. He had his ailing wife with him and I helped him with a glass of warm water at Sapatgram and before parting with each other at Golokganj he told me something about the B.O.C. that there is chance of finding oil in the whole plains of Assam. Sir, this officer was a man from Brahmanbariya of East Bengal and he was not willing to disclose his name. Anyhow, I these things with me since 1945. I can have expose this today in this House and I am lucky for this chance.

Sir, I live in Abhayapuri. In the Northern side beside the Bar-pahar there is a river Chekati by name flowing down. You will find oil on the surface of that river. My request to our Industries Minister is that let there be proper drilling in our district so also in the district of Kamrup and in the border of Garo Hills. Next, Sir, I want to say a few words about Match Factory. Once upon a time, a Match Factory was established at Dhubri at the initiative of foreign enterprise. It is still there but without any improvement. We are proud that Assam possesses enormous quantities of Simul trees. Why should we not develop the Dhubri Match Factory ? Why we are not in a position to build up a second factory in between Kamrup and Goalpara District for the living of rising army of youths. Sir, we are importing large quantities of match box from South India, namely, Madras. Sir, it is a pity that we are bringing match box from outside the State in spite of having enough raw materials in our State for manufacturing the match box. In this connection, I may refer to a remark by one Mr. Cedrik, the Sexon who wanted to blow his own horn in hunting. So I want to strike my own match box of Assam, in my own State and not a match box manufactured in Madras. Next thing I want to say is about the New Bongaigaon Workshop. It is a Major Industry. It is regretted that sons of the soil have not been appointed there per quota. I don't say that outsiders are coming and they are being given the chance. But at the same time we should see that sons of the soil also get their due share. I understand some appointments have been cancelled. I hope our Industries Minister will visit New Bongaigaon soon and see to all these matters.

Lastly, Sir, I would urge upon the Government for starting Paper Mill at Goalpara. Plenty of bamboos are available in the district. By setting up new industries we shall also be able to solve the problem of unemployment amongst the army of educated youths in Assam.

Sir, our new Industries Minister is a fine gentleman. He is a youngman and belongs to our same age. I am sure, under his able guidance, the Industrial Policy of Assam will get a new shape and it will march forward towards rapid industrialisation to the blessing of the youths of Assam.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Industries.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Minister Industries): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members for not only criticising the Government but also offering certain valuable suggestions and I can assure them that we will give serious attention ((Voice—Please come to the mike). I was saying that hon. Members those who have participated in this demand have offered us valuable suggestions to which I shall give serious thought. With regard to the corruption which many of the hon. Members have said on this demand I can tell them I shall not be holding any brief for any corrupt and delinquent officers. Sir, whatever points they have raised I shall try to answer them as far as possible and if there is anything left out I shall not be failing to supply them afterwards also. Mr. Lakshyadhar Choudhury made serious allegation regarding selling of some import items in Calcutta and mentioned that one Messrs Harlalka M. C. and Company has been given a licence worth Rs. 1 lakh during the period 1966-67. Sir, against our recommendation of Rs. 1 lakh, the Licensing authority of Government of India issued a licence only for Rs. 50,000 for importing the above raw materials. The letter of credit against this licence has not yet been opened, as such misutilisation of this licence does not arise. Effective steps have already been taken to see that the imported materials are put to proper use for the purpose for which the import licence was granted.

Now, Sir, Shri Choudhury mentioned about Messrs Ajitsaria Industries, Gauhati. They are engaged in the manufacture of copper wires and copper strips, conduit pipes, etc. The raw materials required for making copper wires and copper strips are copper wire rods. But as allocation of copper by Government of India was made in the form of copper bars, Assam Small Industries Development Corporation, Industrial Estate, Gauhati used to get these bars into copper rods in factories outside Assam as there is no factory in Assam to do this kind of job. After converting the copper bars into proper sizes of copper rods, these copper rods were brought back to the raw materials depot of the A. S. I. D. C., Gauhati and then released to the party at Gauhati. As such depositing of the materials by the party in places outside Assam does not arise. However, if the party has disposed of the raw materials after taking delivery from our raw materials depot, the matter needs investigation in details. This will be taken up by the Department of Industries.

Sir, the hon. Member has also made some reference about Messrs. Arun Metal Industries, Gauhati. The firm was recommended for im-

port of primary nickel for an amount of Rs.1 lakh, for manufacture of casted nickel anodes, for the period of 1966-67. But being a new unit in this line the unit has been issued an import licence for Rs.25,000 for import of primary nickel. The said import licence has been despatched to the firm through us during the later part of April, 1967. To receive the material against this import licence will at least take another two months time. So misutilisation at this stage does not arise. We have already taken necessary action to see that the material when imported will be properly utilised.

Now, the hon. Member also referred about the Messrs Milton Moore and Co., Tinsukia. All quantities of mercury allotted to Messrs Milton Moore and Company, Tinsukia for manufacture of 'Suhag-Sindoor' etc., have been properly utilised as enquired through our District Officer. The total number of cases taken up for investigation on suspected misutilisation of raw materials were 10 so far. Out of these three cases have been jointly investigated by our Department and the Central Bureau of Investigation, and all these three cases have been dropped as nothing was found against them. Two cases were investigated by our Department and their allotment of raw materials was stopped for a year for suspected misutilisation. After finding a *prima-facie* case action has been taken against two parties and these are pending in the Courts, one in Calcutta Court and the other in Delhi Court. The remaining 11 cases are under investigation by our Department and by C. B. I. as the case may be.

Sir, this is regarding the misutilisation of raw materials as made by Shri Lakshyadhar Choudhury. Now he made another reference to the functioning of Meter Factory and about sub-standard parts. Sir, the other day I personally inspected the project. Sir, at the time the cost of Meter was very high. Due to the shortage of Meter the Department decided to go in for a Meter Factory. Subsequently, there was compensation made by the private party like Birla's a result of which the price of Meter had gone down. Even the Government of India sponsored Factories had to be closed down. But our Meter Factory is still functioning. They are trying to kill these industries here. Sir, the 40 per cent of the components which are required are produced here, 25 per cent components are brought from foreign countries and about 30 per cent from Messrs. GEC, Calcutta. Now these parts and Meters manufactured by us had been tested in the Government Test House, Alipur and found satisfactory. A copy of the Test report is kept on the Table of the House so that the hon. Members can examine and see whether this is true or not.

Sir, with regard to the Cement Factory the hon. Members have pointed out that there was a lot of wastage in building up the Cement Factory. This Cement Factory was started by a private party at the beginning but it was subsequently taken up by Government and it is not a fact that the amount of 14 lakhs were mis-spent. Certain foreign Companies have given us machineries but nowhere any money was mis-spent on this account.

With regard to Shri Choudhury's complaint that we have appointed a Chairman of the Assam Small Industries Development Corporation who is not a suitable person. Lt. Col. G. P. Das is a very qualified Engineer.

He was one of the few Indians getting I. R. S., the highest all India Service of Engineers at that time. He has wide experience in industries as Works Manager in Ordinance Factory, in Calcutta Corporation, B.B.J., Workshop Burn and Co., etc. He was specially recruited to the Army for his engineering qualification. For his wide experience he has been made working Director in one of the concerns in Calcutta, and because of his experience we have appointed him as the Chairman of the Small Industries Development Corporation.

Shri PHANI BORA: There was no objection with regard to his qualification either University or College. The objection was based on his behaviour with the people those who are working with him.....

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: He is a man from Assam. He belongs to Assam. Mr. Gogoi mentioned about the qualifications of the Director of Industries of Assam and he said that he is an ordinary Graduate. Sir, he is an Engineering Graduate having other foreign qualifications and he was appointed by the Government on the recommendation of the Assam Public Service Commission.

Regarding Rifle-but productions some apprehensions were shown by some hon. Members. I tried to ascertain about them. I find the report on it is a big one so I would place it on the table of the House for the information of hon. Members and if any other thing is required in this connection I will give the same. This item of defence production was taken up at the request of the Government of India in the wake of the Chinese Aggression in 1962. This project was taken up on an emergent condition without having the required experience. Naturally some contractors had to be appointed. The orders were taken on Government to Government basis. The articles produced were checked and passed by the Inspectors of Government of India. After passing the articles by the Inspectors there was no more responsibility with us. What I find from the report is that we have no proper supervision as to the number of items to be supplied to Government of India on defence production. When these things came to the notice of the Government and there was lot of criticism from the public, this matter was referred to the Vigilance Commissioner of this State who went into the whole matter and submitted his report giving certain advices and we are following the advices given by the Vigilance Commissioner and there is no hide and seek in this matter and I feel that we have done what is best to be done on the advice on the Vigilance Commissioner and if there was any guilty persons pointed out by the Vigilance Commissioner surely those persons will be punished according to the law. I am placing this whole report on the table of the House.

In this project supply orders were received for Rifle Half Wroughts, Tent Poles and cane Ration Baskets. Due to inexperience at the beginning there was high rate of rejection of manufactured stores but as technical knowledge was acquired, the standard of production increased and rate of rejection also came down and as such Assam gradually became major supplier of Rifle Half Wroughts, Tent Poles and Ration Baskets, raw materials of all these being locally available, timber—Amari bamboo and cane. The passing was always done by the Government of India Inspectors.

Sir, with regard to Tent Poles, some of these were passed by the Inspectors and when these reached the destination as these were not taken delivery in time, the bamboos dried and for which we are not responsible. Once the things are passed our responsibility ceases. We are taking up this matter with the Defence Department and the matter is pending but there was no laps on the part of the Government.

Regarding the allegation that we have given loss in this venture, I want to say that instead of giving loss we are actually making a good deal of profits and a few lakhs of rupees have been earned.

Shri PHANI BORA: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that no loss was given in this venture, why for example one contractor of Nowgong has not been paid his due of Rs.5,000 since 1964-65? Why he was not paid if the Government made profit?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: When the Defence Department wanted these things hurriedly lot of contractors show over exuberance in starting to make these things and as a result there was a good deal of production and lots of them were rejected by the Inspectors. Now, we are corresponding with Government of India to start this business agains in Government to Government basis so that these things produced by the contractors can be disposed of but the main thing is that for the over exuberance of these contractors they produced more things than required. So we are now trying to get more orders for these excess things.

Shri PHANI BORA: It is a peculiar thing that the Government gave contract to certain contractors and the Government then did not accept their produce. How it happened like this?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: As I have said that these contractors became over enthusiastic and produced these things because they thought that Government of India will take them. We did not give order for all these things. We are now taking up the matter with Government of India as I have already said so that these difficulties of the contractors can be removed.

Now the point raised by Shri Gogoi regarding the pipes supplied for the Gas pipe-line, Namrup, that they were rejected. The information got by the hon. Member is wrong. These pipes were made by Messrs. Hindusthan Steel Ltd. and they have certified that these pipes were of high standard, as can be seen from a copy of a letter No.SALES/PIPES/33/11722, dated 3rd August 1962 from Messrs. Hindusthan Steel Ltd., to the Superintending Engineer, Assam State Electricity Board, which I am reading out:

“Reference your tender for purchase of about 15 miles of 14” Outer diameter Pipe Lines.

“We are informed by Messrs Khemchand Rajkumar that they have submitted their tender on 5th July 1962 for the supply of this pipe line which has been manufactured and supplied by us to them. It is confirmed that such pipes offered to you by Messrs Khemchand Rajkumar will withstand the test pressure of 70 atmosphere equivalent to 1029 psi.”

So, Sir, the allegation which Mr. Gogoi has made is not correct. The pipes were not rejected. The pipes were taken on the recommendation of Messrs. Hindusthan Steel Ltd., that these pipes were made by their concern.

Then, Sir, Shri Dulal Chandra Barua made certain observations regarding industrial development in this State.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will require some more time to finish your speech?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Yes, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2-00 P. M. Shri Sarma will continue his speech after lunch.

Adjournment

The house then adjourned for lunch till 2 P. M.

(After Lunch)

Statement by the Minister of State P. W. D. Accidental Death of a person against the Minister's Car on 24th June 1967
Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:—Shri Altaf Hossain Mazumdar.

Shri ALTAF HOSSAIN MAZUMDAR (Minister of State, P. W.D.):
 Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a statement regarding an accident. On 24th June 1967 I was proceeding towards Mangaldai by Gauhati-Shillong road in Car No. ASA-5859. In the same car 3 Hon. Members of this House were also travelling with me. They were Shri Hiralal Patwary, Shri Nakul Chandra Das and Shri Matlebuddin. At about 3 P. M. when we reached near the dam site of the Umiam Hydro Project I saw a man on the left side of the road with a hand-cuff on one hand looking towards our vehicle. As soon as our car approached him—our car was running at a normal speed—the hand-cuffed man suddenly jumped to our car. But he did not actually fall in front of the wheel because by that time our vehicle had gone a bit ahead of him and sustained injuries on the head. The driver immediately stopped the car and we got down, lifted him to our car and turned back to Shillong. One Inspector of the rank of Inspector and one Constable of the Nagaland Police who were at that time at a little distance from us in a jeep accompanied us in the same car. The way the man jumped all on a sudden it became apparent that the man did so with the intention of committing suicide. On our way back we learnt from the Nagaland Police Officer that the name of the man was Mohendra Nath Gogoi who was an Accountant in the Integration Extension Training Centre, Ghashpani in Nagaland. He was arrested in connection with a defalcation case amounting to Rs.54,869.22 paise, and he was being brought back to Shillong from Nongpoh for further interrogation. It was reported to us by the Police Officer that the arrested man was let loose with hand-cuff on one hand as he wanted to pass urine, and as such, immediately the accident took place. We brought the man to the Shillong Civil Hospital where he succumbed to the injuries. We immediately brought this matter to the notice of the Police.

Demand No.29-“35-Industries-III-Major Industries”.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: (Minister, Industries): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Dulal Barua made a remark that with regard to industrial development in the State, it is a big zero. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Members that during the last Plan periods the following Public Sector industries were set up in the State of Assam:

(1) About 16 plywood factories based on timber

There was also some comment to the effect that we have not been able to set up industries based on the raw-materials available in our State. That is also not correct. Apart from the 16 plywood factories based on timber as stated already, we have to our credit the following factories:—

2. A Cement Factory at Cherrapunji based on limestone and coal.

3. A Jaxboard factory at Tinsukia based on Ekra.

4. A Match splint Factory at Bijni based on simul logs,

5. A refinery at Gauhati based on local crude oil.

6. A Fertiliser Factory for manufacturing amonium, sulphate and urea based on natural gas.

7. Coal Mining.

8. Thermal Project at Namrup based on natural gas.

9. Spun Silk Mills at Jagiroad based on local sericulture material.

10. Low Temperature Coal Carbonization Plant at Upper Assam.

11. Blending of Assam Coal with Bengal-Bihar Coal for Metallurgical coke.

12. Expansion of Programme of Cherapunji Cement Factory.

13. A Cement Factory at Bokajan based on limestone and coal.

14. Paper and Pulp Factory based on local bamboo.

15. A Jute Mill based on local jute, and,

16. Expansion of the Fertiliser Factory at Namrup. ..

So, Sir, it will be wrong to say that nothing has been done during these 20 years.

Shri Barua also said that the industrial policy of the Government of Assam should be revised. Sir, I feel that this is not a new suggestion.

We are going to have a conference in the near future with a view to find out the real difficulties of the entrepreneurs in the State and also to ascertain the causes impeding the industrial development and as to why the pace of progress of industrial development is not just in the manner we expect it to be. After this conference we shall see whether any remodelling of the present policy is called for so that industrial development takes place as rapidly as possible. Shri Barua also mentioned about the paper pulp factory and a cement factory at Bokajan. As these matters have been sufficiently discussed in the House before, I think I need not dilate on them for the present.

Hon. Member Shri Promode Gogoi spoke about a second refinery in Assam. He also criticised the Government that it has not done any thing on this score. Sir, I can draw the attention of the Hon. Members to one fact, i.e., that whatever is possible on the part of the State Government to do on this score, it has been trying to do and will surely continue to do so in future also. We will certainly urge upon the Government of India the importance of having a second refinery located in Assam. As regards nationalisation of industries, although we have said on many occasions that quite a lot of resources are necessary to do so. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Members to another side of this question. Before we can undertake nationalisation of industries, we must be capable of producing enough of technical personnel. Unless we can have enough of technical personnel to run our industries, it is futile to go on for nationalisation. I would therefore urge upon the Hon. Members to have a little patience on this count.

With regard to coal industries, Sir, many of the Hon. Members said that we have done nothing about the utilisation of our coal deposits in Assam. Sir, these days the Railways are not using coal as they used to do before. Quite a number of tea gardens are also going for use of electricity in their factories. River steam navigation has also curtailed to a considerable extent the use of coal. So the use of coal has been reduced by almost all major industries. Even then, however, we are trying to find out ways and means as to how best we can utilise them and how we can have some foreign collaboration for the purpose. On the one hand Shri Promode Gogoi said that we need not attract foreign capital, and on the other hand Shri Phani Bora of the same party said that we should bring foreign capital for development of industries in our State.

Shri PHANI BORA: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I did not say that foreign capitalists should be invited here. I simply said foreign collaboration. There are foreign friends who will not demand much interest and who will collaborate without political strings. Therefore, what I meant was collaboration with friendly foreign countries on terms suitable for development of our national industries.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I stand corrected, Sir. We are trying to collaborate not only with foreign Governments, but private parties as well. We know that industrial development has not taken place in our State as expected because of various factors. It is not true that we are not anxious to develop industries in our State. As a matter of fact our Government has extended certain facilities to private entrepreneurs to come and set up industries here. As I have already

tioned, there are certain inherent difficulties in private parties coming to Assam and develop industries e.g., transport bottleneck, geographical position etc. A very big amount of capital is also necessary for setting up industries here compared to other States of India. For example, take the case of our cement factory at Cherrapunji. A factory in Calcutta has to store raw materials for one month, but in Assam raw materials have to be stored for six months. That alone needs a lot of finance. In the Cherrapunji factory I found that they were storing raw materials for six months involving 9 lakhs of rupees on which interest has to be paid. In other States they can store raw material for one month only because they can bring them immediately from neighbouring areas. But that is not so in our State. All these inherent defects are there. That is why we want to have a conference to process these difficulties and find out how best we can develop industries in our State. Sir, Mr. Chaliha referred to some ceramic industries and Garo Hills coal. Sir, we have got all the project reports ready and we are thinking of going ahead with them provided we get the resources at our disposal.

Sir, with regard to the disposal of industries, we are exactly thinking on these lines. All the areas should be developed industrially as far as possible. This question will also be discussed in the proposed conference. We have not been able to use the natural gas; as a matter of fact, we are burning this very important gas because we are not in a position to utilise it. We are therefore thinking of a petro-chemical industry in our State. We are also trying our level best to have industries based on natural gas. If we can do that a lot of small industries will develop. This is a very attractive prospect and, therefore, we are trying our best to have those industries in the near future.

With regard to the unemployment problem a lot of members have spoken. I would like to reply to them in course of the discussion on a motion tabled by Shri Dulal Chandra Barua. I, therefore, do not propose to deal with it at this moment. Shri Atul Goswami has referred to the jute mill at Nowgong. Sir, the jute mill programme is going ahead, machinery have already been ordered. He mentioned about some godown or so I could not follow. In any case, Sir, the jute mill's progress is very good and I hope we shall be able to start work of the mill in the next winter. Sir, Shri Phani Bora wanted that only public sector industries should be set up as private sector industries are not coming. He is correct in this sense, but only public sector industries will need a lot of money. That is why we are trying to make private parties also interested in the industrial development of our State. He also mentioned about the purchase of some land from Shri Deben Sarma. What I find from my records is that the Department asked the Deputy Commissioner to investigate into the title of the land. When we got the green signal from the Deputy Commissioner that the land was free from encumbrance and Shri Sarma's title was valid, we went for it. The valuation of the land was made by the Deputy Commissioner at Rs.6,000 per bigha, but at our request it was reduced to Rs.5,000 per bigha and we made payment to Shri Deben Sarma accordingly. With regard to the "manipulation" suggested by the hon. Members that this was converted into periodic and all that, I am sorry I cannot reply as these were dealt with by the Revenue Department. So far as our Department is concerned, when the Deputy Commissioner made the valuation and said that Shri Sarma had valid title over the land, we had gone

for it. I do not know what wrong is there excepting not getting patta from the Revenue Department.

Shri PHANI BORA: My point was different. I did not raise any question about valuation, which the Minister says, was made by the Deputy Commissioner. My point was that this land should not have been taken as Shri Deben Sarma had an irregular title over it and then Revenue Department advised not to purchase the land. This type of land should not be taken for any Government Department. I also wanted to know for what purpose the Industries Department wanted that particular plot of land and what happened to the land. That particular gentleman subsequently returned the money. What happened to that money or whether it was actually paid or not? Why it was given back and whether actually it was given back? My charge is it was not given back, it was a deception.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I do not have that information with me. But I assure the hon. member that I shall make an enquiry about it and place the facts before the House.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: The Hon'ble Minister should have been able to give us information about these things as the payment was made by the Industries Department.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I have said that we acquired the land through the Deputy Commissioner and we made the payment. After that what happened I do not know. I shall make an enquiry.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know whether at the time of purchase of the land it was considered whether the land was suitable for industries or not?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Yes, it was suitable. If it was not suitable, why it was purchased?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: The question is thrown back, which is not expected from the Minister. The question was that at the time of purchasing the land by the Industries Department in spite of the advice of the Revenue Department, whether the land was suitable for industries or not. The Minister said it must be, otherwise why that land should have been taken. That is just asking the question. "Otherwise why it should be taken"? Well, it may be taken for many purposes; for example, if I am a Minister and the owner of the land happens to be my friend or colleague, I can show him under favour for his benefit by purchasing his land by public money—my personal money is not involved, so why care? That may be one reason. There may be many other reasons.

What reason it would be is not for us to answer. We want the information. What my Hon'ble friend wanted to say is that no industry was built up on that site or nearabout up till now. The land was Sarkari land which was taken by a particular individual promising that he would use it for his own purpose, but when that individual failed to use it for his own purpose the annual lease which he got was cancelled. He was however not given the show cause notice. Therefore,

the higher authorities said 'Do it according to law'. Due to this technical flaw instead of cancelling the lease the land was made periodic and he was given the proprietorial right. Thus, the land which was taken from the Government at Rs.150 or so that particular land was sold to the Government at Rs. 1½ lakhs and the money was taken. Thereafter, there was a row and a lot of public criticism. Then it was said probably by the Chief Minister, subject to correction, "I have got the money or I am getting it". But the thing is, Sir, that was also a fake cheque, it could not be cashed. In the ordinary course of things it would have been an offence under section 420 I. P. C. and the person concerned would have been prosecuted in a Court of law, but because he was a Congress M. L. A. no case was instituted against him and at the same time the money was not realised. That is the charge which the Hon'ble Member has brought. Now, it is for the Minister to reply as to how these things could take place under the benign Industries Department. The Minister cannot throw back the question. We want to know what was the reason behind this deal.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: This part of the deal was made by the Revenue Department for which I am not prepared at the moment. I am sorry for that. I have already informed the House that I shall enquire into the whole matter; but so far my report goes these are the points given by the Deputy Commissioner. The land stands in the name of Shri Debendra Nath Sarma, M. L. A. under Periodic patta No.98 covering Dag No.79 and 80 of village Dakhingaon in Beltola Mauza. The A. S. O's report shows that the pattadar Shri D. N. Sarma, M. L. A. has full title over the land under the periodic patta and it is free from encumbrances.

With regard to the previous part of it and the latter part of it I shall make further enquiries and let the House know.

Shri PITSING KONWAR: Whether this land was within the Tribal Belt ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: This falls within Tribal Belt. But in fairness it must be said that at the time when the original allotment was made in 1945 this land was not in the Tribal Belt because there was no declaration under Chapter 10 of the Land Revenue Manual. That was brought under Tribal Belt only in 1947. But the point is, after the area came under the Tribal Belt and after it was found that the land which was taken on the plea that it would be used for his own purpose for growing crops, was not used for the purpose for which allotment was given, the Government cancelled the Annual Patta. But the unfortunate part of it was that before cancelling the lease notice to him was not given for showing cause as to why the annual lease should not be cancelled, and taking advantage of that legal or technical flaw, it was said that the cancellation is not proper and it should be done according to law, in other words direction should be given to him to show cause why he kept the land fallow. So long he was not an M. L. A. Then he became an M. L. A. and because in the meantime he became an M. L. A. that notice took another character and instead of asking for showing cause it was decided that the land should remain in his name and should be made periodic and when it was made periodic it was already in the Tribal Belt. If my charge

is found correct then action must also be assured. That is what we want. (Interruption by some other members). What happened actually is that probably in the Congress Party there was a row about this matter and the Chief Minister's name was also involved subject to correction. Then the Chief Minister intervened in the matter and said "Remain silent; after all we are going to get back the money and do not go to this sort of criticism" and it was also stated that he had given a cheque. But while on the one hand he gave a cheque on the other hand he gave instructions to the Bank not to honour the cheque. So what Government got was actually a piece of paper for Rs.1½ laks. For giving a false cheque and depriving the Government of the money any other individual would have been prosecuted for cheating but as this particular individual happened to be a member of the Ruling Congress Party, Government did not institute any case for cheating.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Sir, some Members from Goalpara mentioned about the possibility of Jute Mill and Paper Mill at Goalpara. We shall try our best to utilise those raw materials as best as possible within our resources. As I have already said, Sir, we are also equally anxious for dispersal of industries in the State as a whole. I am glad for the suggestions they have made on this count. There was an exception in the appointment of the Director of Geology and Mining. We have been asking the Government of India to give us an officer with necessary qualifications. They are not in a position to give us any officer at present. That is why the present incumbent is working as the Director.

With regard to Nangalbibra, which is based on coal, I was told that we are going in for this project within this financial year, and it is only with the purpose of utilising the coal we have gone in there.

Sir, these are the main criticisms made by the Hon'ble Members, and whatever suggestions are made we will certainly consider. Sir, I hope I have touched all the points, and if anything is left out I shall reply to these if pointed out.

With these few observations I will request the Hon'ble Members to withdraw the Cut Motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I put the Cut Motion.

"That the total provisions of Rs.6,28,800 under Grant No.29, Major head "35-Industries-III Major Industries," at page 302 of the Budget be reduced to Re.1 i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,28,800 do stand reduced to Re.1.

(The Motion was lost)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I put the main question. The question is that a sum of Rs.4,71,600 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum (Rs.6,28,800) necessary to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1968 for the administration of the head "35-Industries-III Major Industries."

(The Motion was adopted)

DEMAND NO. 28

"35-Industries-II-Cottage Industries".

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Minister, Industries): Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, to move that sum of Rs.41,30,000, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum (Rs.55,06,600) necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1968 for the administration of the head "35-Industries-II-Cottage Industries."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved.

(Cut Motion not moved)

I put the question. The question is that a sum of Rs.41,30,000, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the Sum of (Rs.55,06,600) necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1968 for the administration of the head "35-Industries-II-Cottage Industries."

(The Motion was adopted)

DEMAND NO.68

"96-Capital out lay on Industrial and Economic development-(I-Investment in other Commercial and Industrial undertakings)"

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Minister, Industries): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.92,43,800 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum (Rs.1,23,25,000) necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1968, for the administration of the head "96-Capital Out lay on Industrial and Economic Development -(I-Investment in other Commercial and Industrial Undertakings)".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

(Cut Motion not moved)

I put the question. The question is that a sum of Rs.92,43,800 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum (Rs.1,23,25,000) necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1968, for the administration of the head "96-Capital Out-lay on Industrial and Economic Development (I-Investment in other Commercial and Industrial Undertakings).

(The Motion was adopted)

DEMAND NO. 83.

"Q-Loans and advances etc.,-(VI-Industrial Loans)

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Minister, Industries): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.3,69,400, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum (Rs.4,92,500) necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1968, for the administration of the head "Q-Loans and advances etc., (VI-Industrial Loans)."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

(Cut Motion not moved)

I put the question. The question is that a sum of Rs.3,69,400, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum (Rs.4,92,500) necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1968 for the administration of the head "Q-Loans and Advances, etc., (VI-Industrial Loans)".

(The Motion was adopted)

DEMAND NO. 89

"Q-Loans and Advances etc.,-(XII- Loans to Electricity Board)".

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: [Minister, Power (Electricity)]: On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 5,08,79,000, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum (Rs. 6,58,79,000) necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1968 for the administration of the head "Q-Loans and Advances, etc. (XII-Loans to Electricity Board)".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion Moved:

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Sir, I beg to move my cut Motion. In moving my Cut Motion I find that in this year's Budget a sum of Rs.6,58,79,000 has been earmarked for the Electricity Board as loan. Now, because the latest report of the Electricity Board is not before the House, though it is long overdue, it is very difficult to make an assessment of the progress or otherwise made by the Electricity Board, and therefore, our discussion on this subject just at this moment may not be quite factual and up-to date. If, therefore, we have to make some amount of general observations, I hope, we shall be granted that indulgence in view of the fact that the difficulty is created not by us but by the Electricity Board. Now, Sir, it is learnt that upto now the Assam Board of Electricity has, for the Umiun Project alone, spent about Rs.15 crores or so, subject to correction. Apart from that they have also undertaken some other ventures in different parts of Assam, and this Board is not confining its activities only to the generation, supply and sale of electricity and matters pertaining thereto. It has also become something like a general contractor and it does earth

work, filling work and so on and so forth. For example, the other day it was discussed here on the floor of the House itself that the Electricity Board, probably because just at the moment their hands are not full, rather they are empty, went as a general contractor to do some construction work, though there is one body of the Government of Assam to do different kinds of construction works and contract activities.

At any rate, it is now said and seen that this Board of Electricity has become almost like an empire with a Moghul Emperor sitting and lording over it, because in these days we find that even our Minister-in-charge of Electricity does not mind moving in an Ambassador car which even under the benign regime of the Birlas costs only Rs.20,000 when it is new or less when it is on Government quota. But the Emperor of the Electricity Board finds it below his dignity to ride in a car which costs less than Rs.68,000. Therefore, while the Board of Electricity has not been able to pay to the Government even the interest on the loan and is pressing hard for declaring moratorium on the loans or to write them off, the interest is not small amount even at that time this Electricity Board has the pleasure of possessing the costliest car in this State, if not one of the costliest cars in the whole of India. My friend Shri Tripathi while he was Minister-in-charge of Electricity had promised to write the name of the Chairman of the Electricity Board in letters of gold on the floor of this House.

I have not seen those letters of gold. I do not know whether he is thinking of having platinum letter, because in the mean time things have gone much more ahead than when he said so. Anyway I have not any personal grudge against him, particularly against the Chairman of the Electricity Board. He is a very good friend of mine, an affectionate and soft-spoken friend and a nice gentleman. He is a good administrator also. But, sometimes this kind of soft-spoken and nice gentleman can be very dangerous. Because, they behave just like the under-current of the Brahmaputra whose surface is very smooth but the under-current is very strong and perilous. But what we expect is that an administrator should not be just a polite man, he must be efficient and honest. Sir, everybody knows that we are in a bad state of economy and that too is not as a matter of accident or due to some sudden catastrophe. This Electricity Board was under the care and protection of a learned man like Shri Tripathi for so many years past. What we expected is that there should be, at least, some imagination for this and really we find a man who has that imagination. He is a widely travelled man. You know very well, Sir, while he was Minister in-charge of Electricity, for gathering new ideas, advanced and more progressive ideas, he had been to America and Europe besides different parts of India. Therefore, we expected that under his care this department should be ideal not only in the State but for the whole of India. But, now we have faced just the contrary situation in our State. In spite of all tall talks and promises, Assam still continues to consume the least quantity of electricity per capita per head, and this Umium, which is the costliest project undertaken by the Board not only in India but nowhere in the world costs such a huge amount. Not only that we have given loan to this Board for setting up this project, but we want to know how the Board uses the money, materials, buildings and properties. You know, Sir, when the land was acquired for

the purposes of Umium Project—I am particularly concentrating only to this Umium Project—because this is the best show-piece of Electricity Board, this land was purchased at a fabulous price to give compensation to the landholders, as if the land was purchased with a measure. It was not acquired as a common land is acquired for any other purpose, for example for the purpose of embankments etc., Sir, in my own constituency, I came to know from the answer we got the other day, several hundred acres of basti and paddy land of the cultivators were acquired, but not a single paise has been paid for that land, because the Government wanted to pay them only the nominal price. They went to the High Court and the High Court gave the judgment that there should not be any discrepancy. They won the case, but the Government has gone against these poor peasants. They went to Supreme Court. This Government is specialised in making mint out of the poor people and not only that they have no sympathy for them. I charge this Government as being antipathetic towards the poor people. I do not like to say that they are behaving otherwise, but the manner in which they are behaving is very bad. So far the land for Umium project is concerned, as I have already said, it was purchased at a fabulous price. Sir, at that time I was a member of this Assembly and I had talks with the Minister in-charge of Industries and the Chairman of the Board. I complained personally about it. It is not the personal property. It is the money of the common people. It is nobody's paternal property. We will have to know how the public money is squandering away. On this, I was told that money could be minted, but the production of electricity could not easily be created. Production of electricity that is going to be generated can create money. Therefore, Sir, even if it costs more we want to know all about it. They said "Here, there will be a beautiful lake like the Dal lake of Kashmir, but it will be more than that and that Dal lake will be insignificant in comparison with this lake. That will be an extraordinary lake here. You will see that on this stretch of water coloured motor boats will float. There will be yatches, angling points and fishing facilities. There will be huge and beautiful tourist lodges, which will not only be the biggest here but all over India." But, Sir, what we find? This is just like a routine way of saying things in the Assembly. I personally was very much impressed at that time. But where are those yatches, those motor-boats, those angling points and fishing facilities? We understand that instead of attracting tourists from outside, some of our officers became tourists in New Delhi for running to the office of the Solicitor General, office of the Advocate General and so on and so forth for filing a case in the Supreme Court, because the purchase of the land at a fabulous price was not yet completed. Sir, this Government have no right over the land and water of this Umium project. Therefore, this is one of the reasons which prompted the honourable members of this House to agree to these proposals at that time. They all prove to be a mirage. I do not use any harsh term: they only prove to be a mirage. And what has happened? Just like a weakling, while he goes to quarrel with a bigger boy and the bigger boy dashes and pushes him aside, he runs away and says "I shall teach you a lesson". But as soon as the bigger boy comes he simply flees away. Similarly our Electricity Department, our Electricity Minister and the Electricity bosses say that we have got tremendous capacity, we have got potential and bright future and the capacity is terrible. We shall feed Tripura, we shall feed Manipur and we shall feed even West Bengal. Such is our capacity. You will feed them; you will feed the whole

world ; Why do you not feed Assam. They say we have got our difficulty. What is that difficulty ? They say they have not got the overhead wires. I do not know the names all these things. So, after all these things are not there ; and they cannot take electricity to different parts of Assam. You will be surprised to hear....

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: May I know from the hon^g Member who said that there are no wires ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I say because I know it. I know for two years.....

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: But all the time he was saying: "they say".

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: They say they cannot do it. Why ? Because they say *viz.*, the Minister of Electricity, the Chairman of the Board of Electricity and the other electric bosses, they say, I repeat, they say that they get so much of potentiality and so much of capacity that not only they are in a position to feed the whole of Assam, but also to feed Tripura, Manipur and even to feed West Bengal with the electric energy and that would be generated here in Assam, mostly from the Umium Project. That is why they say that But what I say is: all this is humbug. Why even this poor Assam, the different corners of Assam are not getting electricity and what is the reason ? The reason is that there is no current-carrying wire. They will have no current-carrying wires for years to come and ultimately what will happen ? Now, of course, wires have been indented and some work is being done. But I say to them that, that is not sufficient even to cover the whole of Assam not to speak of carrying electricity to Tripura and West Bengal. You want to take electricity to West Bengal. There is no necessity of carrying coal to Newcastle. Electricity generation is much higher in West Bengal than your head. They are consuming more electricity per capita than in Assam. Therefore, they are not starving for want of electricity. If anybody is starving it is this poor State of Assam which is starving. In Assam, they say that there is no development of industries. Some go with applications to Birlas ; some go for partnership with Goenkas ; some go to bring Himatsingka or his son-in-law. I do not know what for. Whether to celebrate the marriage for which an invitation is there on the table or for what purpose ? I do not know. But the thing is that even if they come, they might come to collect whatever profit they might get with least of investment. But they are not going to invest their good money unless and until they get the basic thing for an industry that is cheap power.

Here in Assam, the power for industrial purposes is extremely costly and you want in Assam various types of industries. But industries are built not only on good wishes, not only on hopes and prayers. Industries grow on the basis of certain realities. First of all for industries what is required is raw material. Second thing is that you should have capital and that capital also must be in two parts—you are to have bloc capital as well as fluid capital or liquid capital. Then you are to have power, and apart from that you are to have the market. In respect of

industry, you must have labour. Now, in Assam for some industries there is raw material, there is no doubt about it. With regard to labour it is known that it is limited. Now, if the prices of power also would be prohibitive, then why will the industrialists choose to come to Assam? After all even a most human of industrialists, say a philanthropist, he also in his philanthropy will come only with 5 per cent profit. So, unless and until an industrialist gets at least some amount of profit he will not be foolish enough to come and start any industry in a particular area simply because the Government thereof sent some applications inviting them to come here. So, I am not a believer of that type of philosophy or that type of simpleton wishfulness where I would expect that there would come foreign collaborators or non-Assamese collaborators. After all there is no scope for profit. They would come only after there is an atmosphere for profit. Therefore, one of the reasons why this State has remained backward in industries, which subject was discussed often, is the costliness of power and our Government give loan after loan, advance after advance to the Board of Electricity but this has not improved matters. Then, there are other things. We have got here more officers at present than is warranted by circumstances. So far as the construction stage of the Umium Project is concerned that stage is now over. We are not going to take or rather we cannot take up the Kopili Valley Project because it is a big thing, and because after a lot of investment there, it has now been found out, I am told, again subject to correction, that the stone there is limestone and not granite. So the scheme which was taken up and the project which was chalked out have proved to be unworkable not because science cannot do anything; science can do anything, even if the rock be not granite, if it be limestone. But that would be too costly almost like building a road by bullion. The primary condition was that the rock was not properly examined before so much money was spent there. Therefore it might be said by them that really a lot of money has been spent there. But they will say: have you ever been to this side? If you go you will see that there is already a P.W.D. bungalow on this side of the river, a decent one. But the Electricity Board and its empire-Subedar and Nawab may sometimes go there and how can they remain in P. W. D. bungalow? Therefore, they must have a separate most up-to-date bungalow. Before any test was made for this project they erected the most up-to-date and one of the costliest bungalow there. Actually who is now occupying the bungalow? Some beds and reptiles are occupying it. So, you see how the money which has been taken from the poorest of the people of the State by directly or indirectly is being spent just rearing up the white elephant namely, the Assam State Electricity Board. Now, officers there are a lot, some how or other probably because we live in a narrow valley and probably because of our geographical position we think that they are more advanced and more progressed. Only the other day, Shri D. K. Borooah gave a very good expression of the position. That in Assam under the benign rule of the Congress Government after 20 years including a period when Shri Borooah himself was the Minister, Assam has become a land of those who do not belong to Assam. Some are here but they have made all provisions either in Lucknow or Delhi and some are already off. People may say that I am parochial or chauvinist. But I don't care. Let them say. I say under the present regime the position has been that who goes beyond the Assam border as soon as he crosses the border he is expert man. Even an Overseer becomes an Engineer. So in this way the whole Board of Electricity has gone under the control of those

and guided by those who do not belong to this State. With all respect to them, with all respect to their sincerity, if there be any, and with all respect to their efficiency and brilliance, I can say this much that after all those who belong to this State in spite of that they might not have the equal brilliance, equal intelligence, they have got after all the heart with them. Because it is here where their forefathers lived and died, it is here where they are born and they will die. So, Sir, even if they are lacking in brilliance, those people who have identified themselves with the soil they are preferable to those who are too intelligent and over-brilliant, because they come here only like the birds of weather. Best example or worst example of this is the Assam State Electricity Board. Here money has been squandered or wasted like anything. I am not going in to the details. I reserve it for the Electricity Budget when this budget will come. Then I shall show you point by point by a threadbare analysis how the people of Assam have been deceived, how they have been robbed and how this State Electricity Board has become not only a burden but an unbearable burden on the State of Assam.

With these words, as preliminary to the discussion I commend my Cut Motion and I hope the House will think over the matter seriously before they agree to pass this Demand. I shall particularly appeal to the Members of the Congress Government because they are in larger number and they by the strength of their number can carry anything, to ponder over this matter with a realistic mind. Because it is the popular vote by which we all have been elected, irrespective of our party affiliation. We all are answerable to our Constituencies. They will not tolerate such colossal wastage of money. We should remember that history is merciless and we shall have to be merciless. I tell you with all respect to this naked Fakir that if it becomes necessary for the sake of the country to take a row which may not be cent per cent non-violent, I don't mind. Therefore, I am giving warning again and again that very difficult days are ahead and they may have to face a very difficult situation that will be bad for us all. Let us not invite those days. Let all the members irrespective of the party affiliation remember this and only after thinking over the matter consider whether they can pass this Demand without at least protesting against the manner in which the money is being spent.

Thank you, Sir.

Shri BHADRESWAR GOGOI: উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, কৰ্ত্তন প্রস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰি কব খুজিছো যে মোৰ ঘৰৰ ওচৰতে নাহৰকাটিয়া Thermal Project হৈছে আৰু বহুত টকা খৰছ কৰিলে। এই Project কৰোতে খেতিয়কৰ দুখন গাওঁ উচ্ছেদ হ'ল। সেই দুখন গাওঁ আজিও পুনৰ সংস্থাপিত নহ'ল। বাইজে ভাবিছিল যে তেওঁলোকৰ উপকাৰ হব। কিন্তু আজি বাইজৰ একো উপকাৰ হোৱা নাই। সেই বিজুলী শক্তিয়ে কিছুমান ধনী মানুহৰ পায়খানা ঘৰ পৰ্য্যন্ত পোহৰ কৰিছে। আমি ভাবিছিলো কুটিৰ শিল্পৰ সহায় হব, খেতিয়কৰ সহায় হব। কিন্তু আজি সেই বিজুলী শক্তিৰ দ্বাৰা খেতিৰ উন্নতি হোৱা নাই, উৎপাদন বঢ়া নাই, আৰু শুল্কপত সহায় হোৱা নাই। যেতিয়া কাৰো উপকাৰত নাছিল তেন্তে এই বিজুলী বৰ্ডৰ পৰা দেশৰ কেনেকৈ উন্নতি হব? সেই কাৰণে চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি সলনি কৰি দেশৰ কামত যাতে লাগে সেই বিষয়ে কৈ প্রস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিছো।

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA, Mr. Speaker:: Sir, while supporting the Cut Motion moved by the Leader of this side under the particular Head of Electricity Board, I want to make certain observations. Sir, I have very attentively heard the reply that has been given by the Minister-in-charge of Electricity Board particularly in respect of employment in the Industrial Sector that the employment of the local youths and in respect of employment in the Public and Private Sector, he advised us to be patient. Sir, for 20 years the people of Assam remained peaceful and they have tolerated the exploitation to the greatest extent. Our Leader from this side has pointed out that there is a limitation of such toleration. Therefore, Sir, as we have already pointed out at the time of taking part in the General Discussion on the Budget I have said about Revenue Expenditure. Of the total public debt of Rs.203.8 crores about 50 crores have been advanced to the Electricity Board and with an expectation that this House will vote in this particular demand every year. As I have already pointed out on the other day it is nothing, the guarantee to the people is completely nil. Sir, in the "Study of the Plan and Programme for the year 1967-68" they have mentioned that the allocation of the Third Plan was 27.50 crores but the actual expenditure turned out to be 41.71 crores. Even then the House was pleased enough to vote this particular demand with a hope to get something out of it. Sir, we have pointed out to the Honourable Minister-in-charge, Finance, the then Industries Minister who was very vocal about the industrialisation through power. But what we have seen—the amount which has been spent for this project—it is practically becoming of no use to the production centres which are existing there. Sir, they have not used the power or transmitted the power to the proper points. As I have already mentioned that unless and until there is industrialisation throughout the State there cannot be economic growth there cannot be economic development in the State. Sir, there is provision in the scheme to extend the power to N. E. F. A., Nagaland and West Bengal just to mislead and misguide the people in the name of extension of power potential to the other States. If the power in this State is over-flooded why some of our projects are suffering for want of power? We will have ample scope to discuss this matter while the budget on the Electricity will come. I think, Sir, the new Minister of Industries will agree with us that the maximum amount had been spent not on production but in respect of establishment. I fully agree with the contention expressed by our Leader from this side that we are going to make a Hollywood for certain class of people instead of giving benefit to the people of the State. Sir, you know it fully that the people of this State are over-burdened with taxation and the Government have come forward again with taxation proposal even then the people will not mind if they get something out of it.

I agree with what they have said that the power generated is doubled than what it was 5 years ago. I pose a question: where it has been utilised? It is only for the comfort of the fortunate few here they will earn more money and not for industrialisation of the State. Sir, you will be surprised for industrialisation of the State sufficient power has not been supplied to the various projects. Even in Badarpur many projects could not be continued as there was no power. I pose a question: for or what purpose this amount has been spent? Perhaps this was spent on the pretext of the industrialisation of the State. You will be surprised to hear that every time there is scheme for all these. If the Government is in

a position to give power to the other States then the cost of power may be fixed at the lower rate. We are to construct transmitting centres for proper distribution of power to the project centres. I do not know whether it will be unparliamentary or not, if I say it is simply mockery..

Mr. SPEAKER: Mockery is parliamentary.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: While the State suffer for want of power we are extending the transmission to other States.

Sir, it is also to be observed that the Government has taken up rural electrification programme and I personally submitted certain concrete proposals to Government about rural electrification in certain places in the Jorhat Subdivision and I am to point out in this connection that if there is rural electrification consequently there is industrial development, especially, small-scale industries grow up in those electrified areas, but, Sir, you will be surprised to know that although I submitted some of the proposals in 1962 for rural electrification and some of those schemes were sanctioned in 1964 and one sanctioned in 1965 but in spite of my repeated requests actual work has not been undertaken in the areas approved by Government. When I approached the Department concerned I was told that for want of poles the work could not been undertaken. I personally contacted the Forest Department and arranged for poles for those areas, but unfortunately, although those poles arrived for those areas but instead of taking up the project in right earnest these poles were diverted to some tea garden or other such places ignoring the cause of rural electrification in those areas. I have surely no objection for diversion of such poles to some other areas but the question is when there is a particular scheme approved by Government and when there is a hope for industrialisation if electrification is done in that certain area why instead of electrifying those areas for which poles were sent to the spot were diverted to some other area?

Sir, last time when the present Finance Minister was in-charge of Electricity he said in this House that certain definite schemes were going to be taken up for rural electrification in the State, but, Sir, upto this date I have not found any such electrification except that the then Minister-in-charge of Industries just about 15 days before the last General Election in his constituency made certain rural areas electrified. I have no grudge if that Minister's particular constituency is fortified with electrification but my point is whether Government does not consider the electrification of such other rural areas in the State, although it was promised on the floor of the House? I want a clarification from the Minister whether in that particular area the rural electrification had been abandoned by Government?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: On a point of information, Sir, I cannot understand what the hon. Member means by this or that scheme; instead he should name the schemes.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Was the Minister sleeping? I gave the information in my speech and I personally discussed about these schemes with the Minister and gave him in writing.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Sir, the hon. Member should not pass sweeping remarks that I was sleeping.

Mr. SPEAKER: For keeping the dignity and decorum of this House I hope hon. Member will not make such remarks. We have to maintain the dignity of the House and it is the duty of every Member of the House to see that the dignity of the House is maintained individually and collectively so that the dignity of the House is not brought down.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, I have no such intention. As I have already said about the schemes, the Minister said that I said about the schemes as this and that scheme, so I said that the Minister might have been sleeping.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: For such a thing there should not be generation of heat. One's anger should not be replied with counter anger.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, these schemes are of Jorhat Sub-Division. Although the schemes were approved but till today nothing has been done. So I want to know whether these schemes will at all be implemented or not?

Then, Sir, we have been seeing that a lot of money has been spent in purchasing machineries and I am told that in Namrup a huge number of machinery parts are lying idle and that about Rs. 20 lakhs were spent for the purchase of such things. Is the Government keen or not for utilisation of these machineries brought at a huge expense and whether Government want to render benefit to the people or not by installing these machineries? Sir, whenever we ask something we know Government thinks that it is technically very expert in giving statistics because they want to show that such and such development has taken place in the State, but I would pose a question to the Minister for Industries, what is the output of the two projects one at Naharkatia Gas Turbine and the other project in Namrup?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Is it about the output in power?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Yes, Sir.

At page 23 of the Study of Plan Achievements and Programme for 1967-68 under the Fourth-Five-Year Plan, it is stated:—

“The provision of Rs.5.25 crores for the year 1966-67 was barely sufficient even to continue works started earlier.”

Sir, may I know how much money this particular Electricity Board want? Do they want that without rendering any benefit in respect of industrialisation or other economical benefits to the people, this House is going to vote only money and more money?

Apart from that, Sir, as our leader has pointed out that in respect of successful implementation of schemes by the State Electricity Board the sincerity of purpose should be there in their mind. But what hav

we found? The sincerity of purpose from either the Government or the Board is not there. I am not going to discuss in details but I fully agree with what our leader has said about those people who either have no interest in the State or who are working half-heartedly in a huge establishment with a huge expenditure at the cost of our common people. You will be surprised to know, Sir, that there are qualified people in this State but without giving them employment in the jobs in our State about 50 per cent or more officers are brought from outside the State. Sir, about this Adviser to the Chairman of the Board, we know he stays 6 months here in Assam and the other 6 months in Nagpur. If you ask the question, whether there is not sufficient number of qualified people here for this and such other jobs, from Chairman downwards to subordinate engineers, about 70 to 80 per cent of whom are imported from outside the State, what will be the reply? Does the present Minister, Industries will consider that our graduates of equal standard and qualifications cannot take up these jobs? These people of our State who are born and brought up in the State and who if required will sacrifice to the last drop of their blood for this State should they not be considered for these jobs instead of importing people from outside who may betray the State at any time?

Then with regard to the administration of the Electricity Board whether we are getting any benefit either by way of production or by way of employment of our youths?

Sir, I do not like to take much time of the august House but what I want the Government is to realise that the time is running against them, and it has already become too late. I, therefore, urge upon the new Minister in-charge of Industries to make some heart-searching so as to foresee the place where they are pushing this country during these 20 years of their misrule and to feel the pulse of the people, the trend of feeling in the public mind. Therefore, my whole contention is that we are neither economically benefited nor have we been able to make any gain in the employment sector so far as the bonafide people, the interest of the bonafide people of the State is concerned, and that is why we find to-day in the name of development of power potentials of the country, in the name of supplying electricity, this whole organisation of the Electricity Board, has virtually been converted in to an organisation of vested interests. There is a limit to it, Sir, as there is limit to all things. It is, therefore, high time for the Government to read the writings on the wall and move with time. Otherwise, Sir, I am afraid the people will take upon themselves the responsibility of breaking open the citadel of this bureaucratically attuned vested interest represented by this Government.

Another thing that I want to know is about the purchase of the luxury car for exclusive use of the Chairman of the Electricity Board. I also demand from Government to let this House know as to how many times during these three months the Chairman and the Chief Engineer of the Electricity Board visited New Delhi together with the expenditure incurred thereon. Then, Sir, I also want to draw the attention of the honourable Minister-in-charge to endless cases of anomalies in the matter of appointment, in the matter of promotion, etc., that have crept into

the office of the Chief Engineer in the Electricity Board. You will be surprised to know, Sir, even for some Upper Division posts lying vacant in this office, the Chief Engineer could not find any suitable man in this State, and therefore, he had to fill up those vacancies by importing some people from outside this State, and that again, superseding the legitimate claims of experienced people serving in that very office.

(Shri Biswadev Sarma, Minister, Industries—Unless I know the names of the persons superseded, how shall I be able to ascertain it?)

(Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya—Then, better you do not reply),

(Mr. Speaker—You will say that I have not been given an opportunity to ascertain the facts, therefore it is not possible to reply to these points.)

(Shri Rothindra Nath Sen—The facts are there from long before, the hon. Member is simply refreshing the memory of the Hon. Minister for Industries as he has only recently taken charge of this office). Sir, the office of the Chief Engineer is not far away, and the facts can be ascertained on the telephone, if only the Hon. Minister so desire it. Only very recently information has come to us that about 5 or 6 posts of Upper Division Assistants lying vacant for a long time, the Chief Engineer has filled up by importing people from outside superseding the claims of serving and experienced people of this State. I therefore demand a clarification from Government on this point. With these words, Sir, I want to conclude.

Shri LAKSHYADHAR CHOUDHURY: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বন্ধুবর শ্রীগৌৰী শঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্যই বিজুলী শক্তিৰ শিতানৰ মঞ্জুৰী বিপক্ষে যি কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটি সদনত দাঙি ধৰিছে তাক মই সৰ্বাস্বত্বকৰণে সমৰ্থন জনাইছো আৰু সদনকে সমৰ্থন জনাবলৈ আবেদন জনাইছো। কিয়নো বিজুলী শক্তি শিতানত মঞ্জুৰী দানৰ আগতে এই বিজুলী শক্তি বিভাগৰ ভিতৰুৱা কাৰ্য্য কলাপৰ বিষয়ে অলপ চালি-জাৰি চোৱাতো নিশ্চয় উচিত হ'ব। অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই বিভাগ পৰিচালিত কৰিবলৈ যি ব'ৰ্ড গঠন কৰা হৈছে তাক বে-আইনী ভাবে নিয়োগ কৰা হৈছে। কিয়নো ১৯৪৮ চনত গৃহীত হোৱা (Electricity Act of 1948) আইন মতে ব'ৰ্ডৰ সভ্য সকলৰ যি অৰ্হতা লাগে সেই অৰ্হতা ব'ৰ্ডৰ একাধিক সভ্যৰ নাই। আনকি ব'ৰ্ডৰ চেয়াৰমেন জনৰো সেই অৰ্হতা নাই। যি চৰকাৰে অৰ্হতা নাই বুলি প্ৰায় তেৰশ প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষকক কেইবা বছৰো কাম কৰি প্ৰাতি লাভ কৰাৰ পিচতো বৰখাস্ত কৰিব পাৰে, সেই চৰকাৰে এনে এটি দায়িত্বপূৰ্ণ কাৰ্য্যৰ বাবে নিয়োগ কৰা এই ব'ৰ্ডৰ সভ্যসকলক বিশেষকৈ চেয়াৰমেন জনক কিয় এই কামত অতদিনে বাধিছে তাক ভাবি পোৱা টান। এইজনা পুৰুষলৈ কোনোবা মন্ত্ৰীৰ অহৈতুকী আদৰ থকাৰ বাহিৰে এনে অন্যায় কাম চলি থকাৰ কোনো কাৰণ মই বিচাৰি নেপাওঁ।

এই বিভাগৰ ধোৱা খুলীয়া নীতিয়ে অসমৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক গাঠনিক সোলোক-ঢোলোক কৰি পেলাইছে। মই এই অপব্যয় আৰু অপচৰ কেইটামান মাথোন উদাহৰণ সদনৰ আগত দাঙি ধৰিব বিচাৰো।

এই ক্ষেত্ৰত মই এটা কথা ক'ব বিচাৰো। কংগ্ৰেছে আইন অমান্য কৰি চৰকাৰ হস্তগত কৰিলে। শেষত নিজে শাসন লৈ নিজা যিবোৰ আইন প্ৰণয়ন কৰিলে তাকে তেওঁলোকে নিজেই অমান্য কৰিবলৈ ধৰিলে। ইলেকট্ৰিচিটি ব'ৰ্ডৰ চেয়াৰমেন নিয়োগ

ক্ষেত্ৰটো এই নীতিকে সাৰোগত কৰি বে-আইনী ভাবে তেওঁক নিয়োগ কৰিলে। বে-আইনী ভাবে নিয়োগ হোৱা ব'ৰ্ড নিয়োগ হোৱাৰ পিছত কংগ্ৰেছী চৰকাৰে আইন অমান্য নীতি আৱণ্ট কৰি দিলে। তেওঁলোকে চৰকাৰে যি আইনে এই ব'ৰ্ডক এই বিভাগ পৰিচালিত কৰিবলৈ দিলে তাক তেওঁলোকে অমান্য কৰিবলৈ ধৰিলে।

(১) চৰকাৰে গঠন কৰা "Assam State Purchase Committee Rules" এই বিভাগে দেখ দেখকৈ ভঙ্গ কৰিছে। স্থানীয় উদ্যোগকাৰী সকলক চৰকাৰে $9\frac{1}{3}\%$ সুবিধা দিয়াৰ কথা এই ব'ৰ্ডে উল্লেখ কৰিছে। আনকি অসমত তৈয়াৰি হোৱা বস্তু কিনাৰ যি নিৰ্দেশ এই চৰকাৰে ব'ৰ্ডক দিছিল তাকো অমান্য কৰি বাহিৰৰ পৰা বেয়া বস্তু (Sub-standard) আনি ব'ৰ্ডে আমাৰ স্থান হানি কৰাৰ উপৰিও ব'ৰ্ডৰ কামতো নবম বস্তু লগোৱাৰ প্ৰমাণ পোৱা গৈছে।

(২) অকল সেয়ে নহয়। এই ব'ৰ্ডে ভাৰত চৰকাৰে Black listed কৰা এখন প্ৰতিষ্ঠানৰ পৰা এ, চি, এছ, আৰ, A.C.S.R. কণ্ট্ৰি ক্ৰয় কৰিছে। এই ফাৰ্মে অতি উচ্চ দামত এই A. C. S. R. কণ্ট্ৰিৰ বিক্ৰি কৰাৰ উপৰিও নিম্ন খাপৰ Sub-standard A. C. S. R. যোগান ধৰিছে। আচৰিত কথা যে এইখন প্ৰতিষ্ঠানক অসম বিদ্যুত ব'ৰ্ডেও আগতে অবিশ্বাস্য বুলি অৰ্ডাৰ কৰ্ত্তন কৰিছিল।

অলপতে আকৌ এই ব'ৰ্ডে ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ নিৰ্দেশ অমান্য কৰি I.S.I. চাৰ্টিফিকেট নথকা বস্তু কলিকতাৰ এখন নাভূত-নাশ্ৰুত প্ৰতিষ্ঠানৰ পৰা বেছি দামত কিনাৰ বাতৰি পোৱা গৈছে।

(৩) তাতোকৈয়ো গুৰুতৰ কথা যে অসম চৰকাৰে এই ব'ৰ্ডৰ ঘাই কাৰ্য্যালয় (Headquarters) গুৱাহাটীলৈ তুলি নিয়াৰ সিদ্ধান্ত কৰা স্বত্বেও আজিলৈকে ব'ৰ্ডৰ কাৰ্য্যালয় গুৱাহাটীলৈ বদলি নহ'ল। ব'ৰ্ডৰ কেইবাজনো বিষয়াৰ লৰা-ছোৱালী পঢ়োৱাৰ আৰু মেম চাহাবৰ ক্লাব ঘৰৰ অভাবেই হেনো এই কাৰ্য্যৰ প্ৰথম বাধা হৈ পৰিছে।

(৪) এই ব'ৰ্ডৰ বয় এও সন্মত যোগান ধৰা ফ্লোডা মেচিন এটা গুৱাহাটীৰ পৰা নাজুলবিলৈ নিয়াত এজন ঠিকাদাৰক ১ লাখ টকা দিছে বুলি জনা গৈছে।

(৫) প্ৰায় ২ কোটি টকাৰে নিৰ্মাণ কৰা গুৱাহাটী খাবমেল প্ৰজেক্টটো আজি প্ৰায় তিনি চাৰি বছৰে কামত নলগোৱাকৈ পেলাই ৰখা হৈছে। কাম সম্পূৰ্ণ হোৱাৰ পিছতহে হেনো ব'ৰ্ডৰ বিশেষজ্ঞ সকলৰ খিয়াল হ'ল যে এই মচিন চলাবলৈ যি L.D. Oil ৰ আৱশ্যক সেইটো তেল অসমৰ বজাৰতেই পোৱা নাযায়। এইটো মেচিন ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ পৰা দৈনিক ২,২০০ টকাত ভাড়া লৈ অনা হৈছিল। এই ভাড়াৰ দেনা কিমান হৈছে গৈ তাকৰ ব'ৰ্ড বিজ্ঞ কাৰ্য্যকৰ্ত্তাসকলেহে জানে। তদুপৰি এই মেচিনটো ৰাখি থাকিবলৈ এজন Executive Engineer ক নিয়োগ কৰা হৈছে আৰু তেওঁ বিনা কামে বহি থাকিব লগীয়া হৈছে।

(৬) বদৰপৰত বন্ধা এটি Power Station সম্পূৰ্ণ হোৱাৰ লগে লগেই তাক কামত নলগা বুলি প্ৰত্যাহাৰ কৰা হৈছে। তদুপৰি এই Power Station আন এঠাইত ৰান্ধিবলৈ সেই একে জন ঠিকাদাৰক ভাৰ দিয়া হৈছে।

(৭) বিদ্যুত বিভাগৰ ভৌতিক কাৰ্য্য সমূহৰ ভিতৰত Meter factory টো কিনাৰ কথা উল্লেখযোগ্য। এইটো ভুল Project report ৰ ওপৰত কৰা হৈছিল। ভুল ধৰাপৰাটো গুৰুতৰ নকৰি তাকে চলাই আছে। এই ফেক্টৰীত যি Meter হয় সি

ভাৰতৰ ভিতৰত আটাইতকৈ দামী কিন্তু সি নিৰ্ভৰযোগ্য নহয়। বজাৰত ২৫ টকাত প্ৰথম শ্ৰেণীৰ মিটাৰ বিক্ৰী হৈছে কিন্তু আমাৰ Meter factoryত উৎপন্ন হোৱা Meterৰ দাম ৪৫ টকাৰ পৰা ৬০ টকাৰ ভিতৰত। এতেকে এই Meter বোৰ দম লাগি গুদামত পৰি আছে। মই পৰামৰ্শ দিওঁ আমাৰ বান নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীচৌধুৰী দেৱে এইবোৰ লৈ বস্তা স্বৰূপে মধুকুচিৰ বাক্স বন্ধাত ব্যৱহাৰ কৰক।

(হৰ্ষধ্বনি)

এই Meter এনে উন্নত ধৰণৰ যে Current নোহোৱাকৈয়ে বগা ফিলি ডাল এনেয়ে ঘূৰি থাকে। সেয়েহে মই কৈছো এই বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগৰ কাৰ্য্যবলী লক্ষ্য কৰিলে কেচুৰা লৰাবো High blood pressure উঠিব (বিপুল হৰ্ষধ্বনি)।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই সেয়েহে এই কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটো অস্ত্ৰবেৰে সমৰ্পন কৰিছো আৰু সদনকো সমৰ্পন জনাবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰিছো।

Mr. SPEAKER: এই বিষয়টো Estimate কমিটিয়ে লৈছে।

Shri LAKSHYADHAR CHOUDHURY: মই সেই কমিটিত নাই। এই ব'ৰ্ডৰ দুৰ্নীতিমূলক কানবোৰে ৰাইজক তোলপাৰ লগাইছে। আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত ইলেক-টি চিটি ব'ৰ্ডে লালবাতি জলাইছে।

* **Shri HIRALAL PATWARY:** শ্ৰীযুত ভটাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই এই সম্পৰ্কত যিটো কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে সেইটো মই সমৰ্পন কৰিছো। বৃদ্ধপুত্ৰৰ উত্তৰ পাৰৰ টংলা-ওদালগুৰিত বিজুলী গৰববাহৰ আচনি ১৯৬০ চনতে সম্পূৰ্ণ হ'ব বুলি 'ইলেকট্ৰিচিটি ব'ৰ্ডে' অৰ্ডাৰ দিছিল। এতিয়াও তাৰ কাম নহ'ল। যিমান মন্ত্ৰী সেই ফালে যায় সকলোৱে ক'য় টংলাত ইলেকট্ৰিচিটি নাইনেকি? আগৰ মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীযুত ত্ৰিপাঠিয়ে মন্তব্য কৰিছিল "টংলাত ইলেকট্ৰিচিটি নহলেও হ'ব, আপুনি থাকিলেই হ'ব"। এই কথাত মই দুখ পাইছিলো; আজি ৭ বছৰেও সেই কাম নোহোৱাত মই বৰ দুখ পাইছো। গতিকে মই এতিয়াৰ নতুন মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াক অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ যেন টংলাত সোনকালে বিজুলী গৰববাহৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰে। টংলাত বিভিন্ন ধৰণৰ শিল্প গঠনৰ আচনি আছে আৰু বিজুলী যোগান পালেই সেই বিলাক গাঁও উঠিব বুলি আশা কৰিছো। সেই কাৰণে মই মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰি সদনৰ সময় আৰু নষ্ট নকৰো।

* **Shri KAMINI MOHAN SARMA:** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ইলেকট্ৰিচিটি সম্পৰ্কত বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো মন্ত্ৰীৰী বিচাৰিছে তাৰ ওপৰত অন্য কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটি মই সমৰ্থন কৰো। দেশ গঠনত বিজুলী শক্তিৰ অসীম প্ৰভাৱ আৰু তাকে কৰিবলৈ হলে দেশখনৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয় বিজুলী শক্তি অব্যাহত ৰাখিব লাগিব। দেশৰ কল্যাণৰ কাৰণে কৃষি যেনেকৈ প্ৰধান অঙ্গ বিজুলী শক্তিৰ যোগানো তেনে অপৰিহাৰ্য্য অঙ্গ। কৃষি আৰু বিজুলী যোগান ব্যৱস্থা শক্তিশালী কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে দেশৰ উন্নতি নহ'ব। আজি আনৰিক যুগত আমি পদক্ষেপ কৰিছো। এই যুগত যদি আমি আজিও বিজুলী শক্তি যোগানৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয় আচনি নলও তেন্তে ই বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা। আজি আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত যি ইলেকট্ৰিচিটি ব'ৰ্ড আছে সি অতি মানুহী ধৰণৰ হৈ পৰিছে। এই ব'ৰ্ডে আজি যিভাৱে টকাৰ শ্ৰাদ্ধ কৰিছে, তালৈ লক্ষ্য কৰিলে এই ধাৰণা হয় যে, আমাৰ ইয়াত কোনো ধৰণৰ উদ্যোগ সাফল্যমণ্ডিত নহ'ব। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে 'উমিয়াম হাইডেল প্ৰজেক্ট'-ইয়াত একোটা গাঁওত কৰোতে হাজাৰ হাজাৰ টকা খৰছ পেলাইছে। এবাৰ গাঁও খানে, এবাৰ পোতে; এইদৰেই হাজাৰ হাজাৰ টকাৰ অপব্যয় কৰি আহিছে। এইদৰেই যদি

টকাৰ অপব্যয়, অপচয় আৰু অপব্যৱহাৰ হয় তেন্তে প্ৰজেক্ট কেনেকৈ সাফল্যমণ্ডিত হয় আৰু কেনেকৈ দেশৰ মঙ্গল সাধন হয় ? তাৰ পিছত, ইয়াত যিটো হ্ৰদ আকাৰৰ পানীৰ পুখুৰী কৰিছে, সেইটো খৰাং বতৰত শুকাই গলে তাৰ পৰা কাম নচলিব। এই কাম যদি ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰত কৰিলেহেঁতেন তেনেহলে এটা প্ৰজেক্টৰ দ্বাৰাই সমগ্ৰ বাহ্যতে বিজুলী যোগান ধৰি কৃষি শিল্প ক্ষেত্ৰৰ অশেষ উন্নতি কৰিব পাৰিলেহেঁতেন অসমৰ বাহিৰে যিবিলাক ৰাজ্যত এনে প্ৰজেক্ট লোৱা হৈছিল তাৰ সকলোতে কৃষি শিল্প উৎপাদনত বৰঙনি যোগাইছে।

মহামান্য মেলিনক যেতিয়া সোধা হৈছিল যে Communism কি ? তেতিয়া তেখেতে এক কথা কৈছে যে Electricity is Communism. যদি বিজুলী শক্তি গঢ়ি নুঠে অসমৰ নদীবোৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰি যদি বিজুলী উৎপাদন কৰা নহয়, তেনেহলে দেশৰ উন্নতি অসম্ভৱ। নদীবোৰ যদি নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা হয় তেনেহলে অসম নদন-বদন হ'ব। আজি ব'ৰ্ড কৰি দিছে। কিন্তু সেই বাইজৰ টকাৰ অপচয়হে কৰিছে। ইমান টকা খৰচ কৰি মাত্ৰ মামুলি বস্তু এটাহে পাইছোঁহক। পাৰ্গনাদিয়া নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিলে সমগ্ৰ উত্তৰ কামৰূপৰ উন্নতি কৰিব পাৰিলেহেঁতেন।

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Minister, Industries): Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the Hon. Members made general observations regarding the Electricity Board. So, my answer will be in general.

(Voice—Particularly about officials and administration)

Sir, Hon. Members Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya has said that this is the costliest Electricity Project in India. I am sorry I cannot agree with this contention.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, I am sorry I did not say that it was the costliest Electricity Project, but I said that this is the costliest Electricity Project of this type. There may be many costlier Projects than Umium Project, but this is the costliest Electricity Project of its type.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Sir, the cost of generation of power per K. W. in case of Umium comes to 6.05 whereas the cost of Nangal Bibra is 10 per K.W.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: That project is a different type of project that is why I said that this is the costliest project of this type. This is with regard to generation of power, but generation is not the whole project.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: That is true, but as I have said before I cannot agree with the hon. Member that this is the costliest project.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I agree with that. For example, just to clarify the position, at present so far as the projects which are now being experimented some of these projects are more costlier than this. But for a Hydro-Electric Project of this type, this is the costliest.

(Voice—This is reservoir type)

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: But my information is that from point of time also this project took four and a half years whereas other hydel-Projects took seven to nine years to complete in our country. So, I do not think that this project is the costliest project. Sir, the hon. Member also mentioned about Kopily Project and he said that that would never come into being.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I did not say so. There is nothing impossible. Inspite of the fact that there is stone and lime-stone, it may be possible. It may be costlier, that will be a different point.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I think the hon. Members know that at the beginning some site was selected by the C. W. P. C. for this project, but after some investigation it was found not feasible and a new site was found out and investigation of the project is feasible now. It can be said that lot of money is required for investigation. But, as a matter of fact, in our State there is no proper data. That is why we have to spend money for investigation.....

(Voice—Including that Bungalow also).

Sir, with regard to the Bungalow, as the hon. Member has raised just now, I have kept it in my mind. Sir, I myself am quite new on this subject and I also want to satisfy myself as to why such a huge sum was spent for this Bungalow. Sir, I was told that of lost foreign visitors used to come here because investigation was conducted by the American and other foreign people as well as many people from Assam. With a view to accommodate these foreign people we want such kind of Bungalow. That is why that money was spent for that Bungalow.

Sir, with regard to Namrup Project, Shri Dulal Chandra Barua said that nothing had been done there. Sir, this project is based on natural gas. As the hon. Members are aware, that a large volume of gas is wasted. So, we have to put up a plant there. This gas can be used for fertiliser factory also. The Tea Gardens are also taking gas from there. So, it is not correct to say that nothing has been done. This project is there and expansion proposal is also there in order to give power to different parties. He also said that some machineries were kept outside at Naharkatia. Sir, there is no machine lying outside at Naharkatia, to my knowledge. I think Mr. Gogoi has said that at Namrup cottage industries could not be developed there. Sir, if there is power, if there are people and entrepreneurs coming forward certainly they can take advantage of this power generation there.

Now, with regard to the appointment in the Electricity Board, Shri Dulal Chandra Barua said that 80 per cent people have come from outside. It is absolutely incorrect. It is the other way round, i.e., 80 per cent are people from the State of Assam. Of course there are outsiders there.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN Can the Hon. Minister place on the Assembly Library a list of the staff working in the Electricity Board in order of to remove this confusion, viz., 80 per cent of which side.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: How can I do it just now ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: As far as I am concerned, I did not give any reference. If I heard Mr. Dulal Barua correctly, then Mr. Barua said about the top ones and not generally. Subject to correction, my impression was that he meant the top ones.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Of course, a list will be placed there. Shri Barua also said that there was an Adviser of the Board who remained six months here and six months at Nagpur. I think I have not met that officer so long. Now, Shri Lakshya Dhar Choudhury made certain very interesting remarks regarding the Chairman, Electricity Board *viz.*, his qualification. Sir, he quoted the rule of the Electricity Board. 'One shall be a person with experience and shall have capacity of dealing with administrative matters'. Sir, the present incumbent is appointed for the information of the hon. Members in consonance with the qualifications which other Chairmen of other State Electricity Boards have as I have collected the qualifications of the other Chairmen of other State Electricity Boards. Sir, in most of the States I. A. S. Officers are appointed as Chairman of the Electricity Boards. So, there is nothing wrong in having as Chairman of our Electricity Board an I. A. S. Officer as in the other Electricity Boards. So, this is no contravention of the provisions of the Electricity Act. That is absolutely wrong. Shri Choudhury also mentioned as to why we have accepted the tender of a black-listed firm. Although he has not mentioned the name, but on presumption I think this was the case he referred to.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN: Why not speak a bit loudly because your uncle is sitting by your side.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: My uncle is encouraging me. Sir, I think what Mr. Choudhury has referred to is about this matter. A tender was issued for supply of 650 K.M. of 'Panther' conductors required for the various 132 K.V. lines under construction. The lowest offer was from M/S E. M. C. of Calcutta. The Government of India in a letter No.61/303/63-DWIII, dated 29th August 1966 had intimated us that the Ministry of Industries had blacklisted this Firm *viz.* M/S Electrical Machines Corporation (Pvt.) Ltd. and Messrs. Electrical Manufacturing Co. Ltd. On this order the Firm had approached the Calcutta High Court making the following parties as opposite parties including our Board against this order.

On the basis of this appeal, the Court passed orders that no action to the prejudice of the petitioner shall be taken on the strength of the impugned blacklisted order. On the strength of this order the Superintendent of Police, New Delhi has also intimated us that if Messrs E. M. C. submit any tender notice it should be considered on merits along with quotations of other tenderers. The order of Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. Basu of the High Court of Calcutta passed on December 2, 1966 reads as follows:—

"The application for interim injunction will be taken up along with the main Rule. Interim order already passed will continue. It is ordered that the State Electricity Boards will be at liberty to deal with the tenders of the petitioner on merits, irrespective of the blacklisting

order. Let this interim order be communicated to all respondents at the cost of the petitioner. Petitioner to deposit the requisite forthwith".

Hence the Assam State Electricity Board could not ignore the tender of Messrs E. M. C. in view of the High Court's ruling. Also the tender offered was in the name of the E. M. C. Projects Pvt. Ltd. which under the law has the entity separate from E. M. C. Private Ltd. and therefore the order of blacklisting Messrs E. M. C. Projects Pvt. Ltd. has no relevancy in this case. Against this particular tender, 15 tenders had been received. The offer of Messrs E. M. C. Projects Pvt. Ltd. worked out to Rs.6,018 per KM against the second offer of Rs.6,193.75 per KM from Messrs Prem Agencies and the next lowest offer of Rs. 6,592.20 paise from Messrs Assam Conductors and Tubes. The rest report for each drum of conductor is submitted by the Factory for scrutiny in this office.

The tenderers were again asked to quote firm prices if possible giving a rebate for steel wire to be supplied by the Board. After taking this into consideration, the price of Messrs E. M. C. comes to Rs.4,877 per KM for Calcutta and of Messrs Assam Conductors and Tubes to Rs.5,308 per KM. Also the price of Messrs E. M. C. is firm whereas that of Messrs Assam Conductors and Tubes is subject to variation in price due to price of aluminium.

So, there is nothing wrong in this. Sir, with regard.....

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS ROY Sir, on a point of clarification, For the defence of the Firm in Calcutta and the defence of the Firm in Assam, the hon. Member has mentioned that $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent has been allowed. Is it more than $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: It is Rs.4,877 and the offer made by the Assam Parties is Rs.5,308. I think this $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent rebate is not applicable in the Electricity Board. Anyway I shall check up.

With regard to placing orders with the local parties, I tried to verify to find out whether local parties were not favoured and that parties from outside were favoured. Here I find that that open tenders are always invited for Board's purchases and tenders are decided on merit basis keeping in view in the Board's interest as a whole. However, the Board has never deprived local industries in case of suitable offers from them and from the statement given below it will be seen that the performance of the local industrialists has not always been satisfactory and so on.

No.1—Order was placed with Messrs Steelworth Pvt. Ltd., Tinsukia on 19th July 1966 for supply of 1500 Nos. 30 feet long Steel Tabular Poles for a total amount of Rs.3.16 lakhs. The delivery was to be commenced within 6 to 8 weeks after receipt of order but the firm failed to supply a single pole within the agreed delivery period and on request the delivery was extended by another 7 months. The firm still failed to supply the poles in full quantity and the order had to be cancelled.

No.2—Order was placed with Messrs. Mahabir Industries, Tinsukia on 19th July 1966 for supply of 1000 Nos. of 30 feet long Steel Tabular Poles with a delivery period of 60 days for a total amount of Rs.1.86 lakhs. The firm failed to supply a single pole and the order had to be cancelled.

No.3—Order was placed with Messrs. Assam Tubes Ltd. on 6th August 1966 for Supply of 2000 Nos. of Steel Tabular Poles of length from 34 feet to 39 feet for a total amount of Rs.5.05 lakhs. The firm only supplied 167 Nos. of poles and stopped any more supply leaving us with no other alternative but to cancel the order.

No.4—Order was placed with Messrs. Assam Railway and Trading Co. Ltd. for supply of 5000 Nos. pressure treated wooden poles for a total amount of Rs.13.60 lakhs. The order was placed as early as 8th March 1966 and the delivery was supposed to be completed within 3 months. The firm has only supplied about 600 poles so far.

Then again, another order was placed with Messrs. Assam Industrial Corporation for supply of 500 miles of 7/9 SWG ground wire required for construction of various 132 KV transmission lines subject to grant of import licence for import of raw materials. The Government of India at the first instance only granted I. L. for manufacture of 65 miles of ground wire and the firm duly supplied the same for a total amount of Rs.1.16 lakhs. For the balance quantity of 435 miles the CW and PC is processing the case under the World Bank Loan granted to Assam State Electricity Board.

Order was placed with Messrs Assam Conductors and Tubes Pvt. Ltd. on 13th July 1965 for supply of 10 metric Ton of 8 SWG and 5 metric Ton of 10 SWG Aluminium binding wire at a total cost of Rs.98,000. The firm has duly completed the supply.

Order was placed with Messrs. Assam Conductors and Tubes for supply of 2820 KM of ACSR "Raccon" Conductor on 7th December 1965 for a total amount of Rs.49.63 lakhs. The firm has supplied about half the quantity and then put forward a proposal for increase in price from Rs.1,760.00 per K.M. to Rs.2,201.53 due to devaluation of the Indian Rupee and changes in customs and other duties. This increase asked for involved an extra amount to the tune of Rs. 6.16 lakhs. As the Board could not find enough justification for the increases asked for the firm was asked not to supply the balance quantity until prices were finalised.

Order was placed with Messrs. Assam Conductors and Tubes on 17th September 1965 for supply of 250 KM. ACSR "Panther" Conductor for a total amount of Rs.12.73 lakhs. This conductor is required for the 312 KV Badarpur-Churaibari Line for supply of power to Tripura. The firm was supposed to commence the supply in the month of January 1967 but in the month of February, 1967 the firm came forward with a proposal to increase the price per KM from Rs.5,090.00 to Rs.7,291.80 i.e., an increase of Rs.2,201.08 per KM of the conductor. The proposal involved an extra liability on the Board for Rs.5.50 lakhs. Recently, the Board finalised a deal with a Calcutta firm for supply of similar conductor at the rate of Rs.6,037 per K M without any price variation

and, as such, the proposal of Messrs. Assam Conductors and Tubes could not be accepted and the order had to be cancelled.

So, Sir, in this way I can give more instances of placing orders with the local firms. Either they could not supply or they have asked for time and all these. So, it is not true that the Electricity Board has not placed any orders with the local firms. But all the more I will see, Sir, that in view of the recession in industry our local firms get some preference over others.

With regard to the expenditure on establishment as referred to by Shri Barua I made some calculation in comparison with the Assam P. W. D. R. and B. Wing and the F. C. and I. Wing. The expenditure on establishment for 6 years on an average is 12.55 for Assam P.W.D. (R. and B.), for Assam P.W.D. (F.C. and I.) average expenditure for 6 years is 10.76 and in the Civil Wing of A. S. E. B. the average expenditure for 5 years is 6.65. So, the establishment cost of A. S. E. B. is not that as made out by the Member.

Now, with regard to utilization of power by the industry, it is not correct to say that not a single industry could not utilise the power. Actually, about 19 per cent of the power generated is consumed by the Industries.

Now, Sir, there is another impression amongst the Members that we are giving power to the neighbouring States, namely, Tripura and Nagaland in preference to our demand. We are actually going to supply power to them. In fact, transmission lines are under construction. This is being done at the instance of the Government of India. After all, they are our neighbouring States, they are going without power and for want of that they could not develop industries. So at the request of the Government of India we have entered into an agreement with the neighbouring State on our terms. We have taken all these into account.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: What is the rate ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I think the usual rate. Of course, we are not going to supply power at subsidised rate at our expense for the other States.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Are we making profit or we shall continue to incur loss ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: My point is this. We are selling power at a loss. Now if that be the rates at which we sell to the other States then how we shall sustain the loss ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: At any rate, we are not going to lose.

Sir, as regards the point raised by Shri Barua that our power tariff is highest in the State compared to other States, I am sorry, that is not the position. In fact, we have been asked by the Government of India that we should raise our power tariff so that we can fall in line with the other States.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: The rate in West Bengal is lower than Assam.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Any way, I shall check it up.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Please check up my point also.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Yes, I will.

Shri GIASUDDIN AHMED: Sir, the transmission line to West Bengal is going through the Goalpara District. May I know whether that District will be supplied with Electricity?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Yes, at all cost.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Sir, every point has been replied to excepting mine.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Sir, with regard to the point raised by my friend regarding extension of line to Tangla, I may say that I have taken note of that and I will give my serious consideration about this.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order, you will reply tomorrow. Have you completed?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I have concluded, Sir. With regard to other points raised by the hon. Members, about licence etc. I shall give serious consideration about this.

Mr. SPEAKER: About the Cut Motion, are you withdrawing?

(Voice: Yes) The Cut Motion stands withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order as the Members have withdrawn the Cut Motion, I put the main demand to the House. The question is that a sum of Rs.5,08,79.00 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1968 for the administration of the head "Q—Lands and Advances, etc. (XII—Loans to Electricity Board)"

(The Motion was adopted)

DEMAND No.15

("26—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ORGANISATIONS—III—WEIGHT AND MEASURES")

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Minister, Industries): There is another demand. On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam I beg, sir, to move that a sum of Rs.3,66,900 be granted to the

Minister-in-charge to complete the sum (Rs.4,89,200) necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1968 for the administration of the head "26—Miscellaneous Department—Other Miscellaneous Organisations—III—Weights and Measures".

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved. There is no Cut Motion. The question is that a sum of Rs.3,66,900, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum (Rs.4,89,200) necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1968 for the administration of the head "26—Miscellaneous Departments—Other Miscellaneous Organisations—III—Weights and Measures".

(The Motion was adopted.)

Re: The use of the word মিছা by the press in connection with the allegations made against the Minister, Agriculture, by Shri Dulal Chandra Barua, M. L. A.

Shri SONESWAR BORA: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এটা কথাৰ প্ৰতি সদনৰ দৃষ্টি অকৰ্ষণ কৰিব খোজো যে কৃষি মন্ত্ৰীৰ বিৰুদ্ধে শ্ৰীবৰুৱাৰ অভিযোগটো মিছা বুলি বাতৰি কাকতত ওলাইছে। এই মিছা শব্দটো আমি সদনত ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰো। কিন্তু কাগজত কিয় ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছে ?

Mr. Speaker: মই মিছা বুলি কোৱা নাই, false বুলিহে কৈছিলো।

Letter from Shri Dulal Chandra Barua in connection with the allegations made by him against the Minister, Agriculture, and the Speaker's findings thereon

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received a letter from Shri Dulal Chandra Barua. Shri Barua wants to say something. I am reading out the letter.

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a careful consideration to your findings given yesterday.

In this connection I beg to submit that I was under the impression that the evidences put forwarded by me would be sufficient enough to substantiate the allegation but it was not so.

Therefore, it is essential on my part to express my sincere regret to the House through you just to keep up decent democratic form.

Hope you will kindly allow me to do so.

Sd./- D. C. Barua,
27-6-67.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, by the allegation that I have brought against the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture it was actually not my intention to give any reflection on his personal character but at the same time it is my duty as a Member of the Opposition just to point out the anomalies or defects that we find in the Government and for that reason, I have certain evidences with me and I have practically given thought over all sorts of rules and regulations and at the same time the evidences that I have got, I considered it would be sufficient to prove the allegation that I have brought against him. Also at the same time, Sir, you are fully aware of the limitations of ours. Yesterday we have observed certain things that you have asked me to give certain evidence. Sir, you also know our limitations to produce any evidence. I have tried to avoid such difficulties. That is why when I have made an allegation I felt that as a Member it is my bounden duty to speak something. I had also experience, I am not a new Member. I felt to do so as I considered it just to keep the people on a decent democratic forum. I express deep regret for what I have done against the Minister-in-charge, Agriculture. I hope the hon. Members of this side will also think whenever we cannot produce any kind of materials we are to speak with limitation. Sir, my real intention was not to lower down the prestige of anyone—my whole intention was just to point the defects and anomalies that are creeping in the Government. I express my regret and it is up to the House they may accept it or may not accept it. I am saying that it is up to the House now to judge, if the House does not judge the people outside will judge it.

* **Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is not so simple as has been stated by the hon. Member. It is true that it is the bounden duty of the Members of the Opposition to place the matters to the House to draw the attention of the Government to matters which come to their notice. But, Sir, so far this particular allegation is concerned the hon. Members not only did not accept the explanation that was given by the honourable Minister for Agriculture but he went to the extent of producing the so-called evidence like the Tape Recording and, Sir, what is more surprising is that he was not prepared to tell you even confidentially the name of the Peon who had given information about the brother-in-law of the Chief Minister and the Minister-in-charge, Agriculture, in spite of assurance that he will be provided with all sorts of protection. He even produced a Tape Record as a part of the evidence but he declines to give the source from which he brought the tape. Sir, all these lead us to think that this is something more than mere allegation.

These are very serious matters and until and unless this august House takes serious notice of such matters it would be impossible for any public man to function. (Table thumping from Government benches).

We think this a very serious matter and moreover, the other difficulty is if the Members either of this side of the House or of the other side of the House do not discourage the practice of character assassination, as I said before, it will be impossible for anybody to lead a public life. Therefore, on this matter while I have heard the statemen

made by the hon. Member we are not in a position to straightway say what we will do.

Mr. SPEAKER: Shall I keep it pending till tomorrow ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: That is my suggestion also.

Mr. SPEAKER: The matter is kept pending till tomorrow.

**Calling Attention to a matter of urgent Public Importance—
News Item in Natan Asamiya in its issue, dated 8th
June 1967 about a "Teacher Insulted"**

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, there is a calling attention notice in the name of Shri Sainen Medhi and Shri Dulal Chandra Barua. Any of them may move.

Shri SAILEN MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister, Education, under Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly to the news-item published in the Natan Asamiya, dated 8th June, 1967 about a "Teacher Insulted".

Sir, in the district of Kamrup in Hajo this incident took place and this news not only appeared in the Natan Asamiya but this news has also been circulated in different papers of Assam and in this incident the Principal of the Hajo Secondary High School has been assaulted just in front of the local Police and Public and up till now there is commotion going on in that area and the guilty have not yet been brought to book. With these words I commend my motion.

Shri JOYBHADRA HAGJER (Minister, Education): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it appears that the students, particularly of Class XI of the Hajo Higher Secondary School have been demanding redress of some of their alleged grievances. One of these was, change of English Teacher of Class XI. The Principal himself was taking the English Class since 1964. He is B. A. (Hons. in Philosophy) and B.T. The students wanted that in place of the Principal the class in English in their Class should be taken over by one Bholanath Goswami, M.A. in Economics.

The matter was placed before the emergent meeting of the Managing Committee of 29th May, 1967. The Managing Committee did not agree to the proposal of the students. A General Strike was announced by the students on 30th May 1967. But except the students of Class XI, all other students continued to attend their classes. On 2nd June, 1967 there was a gathering of the freshers when all including those of Class XI attended the School. In the meantime, the Principal had made a request to the guardians which seemed to have yielded results and on 3rd June, 1967 the students of Class XI also began attending their Classes, but they sought permission from the Principal to hold a meeting in the School premises. The permission was given and the Principal himself presided over this meeting. Three resolutions were sought to be passed in this meeting. Of these the Principal could agree to only

one. One of the other two related to the change of the English Teacher of Class XI and the other related to the demand that Dr. Medhi, a Member of the Managing Committee should express regret for what he has said in the meeting of the Managing Committee on 29th May, 1967. The resolution the Principal agreed to was regarding the demand for more furniture and equipments in the School.

Then, Sir, the following day was a Sunday, 4th June 1967. On 5th June, 1967 all the students came to the School. After the usual prayers were said the male students went not to their class rooms but instead they went to the residence of the Principal who did not attend the School that day as he was unwell. The room where the Principal was bolted from inside and the Principal talked to the students through the window. Then he was made to sign a paper which he did sign but with some comments thereon. We do not know what were those comments made by him. This did not satisfy the students. Therefore, the students broke open the door and assaulted the Principal and dragged him out of his house and paraded him through the streets of Hajo. A Mekhela was tied round his neck. It is said that all along the Principal was rebuked and dealt with heavy blows all over his body.

Then he was taken to the house of one Banamali Bhakat where he was forced, it is said, to sign a paper which he was told was a letter of his resignation.

Then the local Sub-Deputy Collector along with others rescued the Principal and took him to the Police Station where the Principal lodged an Ezahar. Police investigations are proceeding. 33 students have been arrested. All of them are on bail now. Besides, two guardians of Hajo and one outsider have also been arrested. The Secretary of the Board of Secondary Education has issued a notice on the Managing Committee to show cause why recognition of the School should not be withdrawn for the reasonable standard of discipline being not maintained in the School. The Inspector of Schools has also called upon the teachers to report as to what they, individually or collectively, did to prevent the students from manhandling the Principal. The residence of the Principal is within full view from the School. The explanations from the teachers or from the Managing Committee have not yet been received. In the meantime, the School has been closed for the Summer Vacation. This is the latest position, Sir, with regard to this unfortunate incident.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Wednesday, the 28th June 1967.

The 16th January 1970.
SHILLONG:

Sd/- U. Tahbilda;
Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam.