

Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

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

MARCH SESSION

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REFERENCE
(NOT FOR ISSUE)

The 1st April, 1967



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**Proceedings of the First 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 Saturday, the 1st April, 1967.

PRESENT

Shri Hareswar Goswami, B.A. (Cal.), M.A. (Cantab.), Barrister-at-law, Speaker, in the Chair, eleven Ministers, five Ministers of State, two Deputy Ministers and sixty-three Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

Re: Constitution of State Development Board

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi) asked:

*13. Will the Minister-in-charge of Planning and Development be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government propose to constitute a State Development Board to assess the results achieved by the Government during the last three plans?
- (b) If so, whether Government propose to constitute the Board with a non-official Chairman?
- (c) If so, when?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

13. (a)—There is already a State Evaluation Committee with Chief Secretary as Chairman to select projects for evaluation and consideration of the reports prepared by the Director of Evaluation and the Government do not see the necessity of constituting a Board as suggested by the Honourable Member.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know from the hon. Chief Minister whether the present Committee which has been set up by Government to make assessment about the achievements of targets of different Plans has become successful?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, I do not give a definite opinion about it right now. It is still to be seen. The present function of this Committee is selection of projects and schemes for evaluation, securing co-ordination and co-operation of various Departments to facilitate the work of the evaluation units, consideration of the report of the Director of Evaluation and suggest to Government such action as may be considered necessary.

REFERENCE

(Not for Issue)

on the report and recommendations of the Director of Evaluation, periodical review of progress made in implementation of such decision, review the scope and content of evaluation, review the organisation for evaluation and suggest modification whenever necessary.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, is Government aware of the fact that States like Orissa or U. P. where they have got such a body as suggested are doing work more successfully than the official units? If so, whether Government consider it proper to set up such a body for successful implementation of the plans and programmes from time to time?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, there are two things. One idea was that there should be a Planning Board and that idea was accepted on principle, in which it was our idea that non-official Members should also be associated, and this evaluation also would be a part of the Planning Board. We on principle decided to constitute the Board but in the meantime because of certain uncertainties with regard to the Plan itself we have not yet constituted the Board. I think the hon. Member's idea of the Board is like that of the Planning Board.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: As the hon. Chief Minister has said, Government has already set up an Evaluation Committee, may I know whether such a unit has been set up in the village level also?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: I do not think there is any unit at the village level, but I am not in a position to tell the hon. Member definitely right now. I will have to find it out. But with regard to collection of statistics, I suppose, there are some arrangements. But I cannot give it in details at the moment.

Re: A Group of Ladies indulging in immoral traffic at Cinnamara, Jorhat

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi) asked:

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware that a group of ladies have been indulging in immoral traffic at Cinnamara, Jorhat under the nose of the Police and the district administration?
- (b) Whether it is also a fact that the public of that locality submitted several representations to the Police and the district authority to stop this?
- (c) If so, what actions Government have taken so far in this regard?
- (d) If not, why?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

14. (a)—No.

(b)—No.

(c) & (d)—There is a house in the locality which had an ill-reputation years back. There is however no evidence with Police of any immoral traffic being carried on in the house now. Still it has been under unobstrusive watch of Police.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, even upto this date this sort of things are going on there in that area and so how the Chief Minister can say that no such thing is going on there?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: I say on the basis of the report which is with me. But if the hon. Member's information is correct, I will make further enquiries about it and see to it.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, in a public meeting which was held very recently at Cinnamara such a resolution was adopted and forwarded to the Government. The Police authorities were also there. May I know from the hon. Chief Minister whether this resolution was received by the Government, and if so, what action has been taken?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: About the complaint on this subject, our records, which have been obtained from the district, do not speak of any such resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to know whether Government has received any such resolution.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: According to the report which I have got there is no mention of any resolution or a complaint.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know whether the hon. Chief Minister is aware of the fact that even some police officers are in unholy alliance with such kind of activities, and if so, will the Chief Minister please enquire into it?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Unholy alliance of this nature, not to speak of police officers.....(laughter).

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: I have already said that many complaints have been lodged by the Public with the Police authorities but no action has been taken so far either by the Police or the D.C. Therefore, I request the Chief Minister to make a thorough enquiry about it and place the facts before the House in the next session.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: I assure the hon. Member.

Re: Distribution of Potato Seeds by the Jorhat Anchalik Panchayat

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi) asked:

*15. Will the Minister-in-charge of Panchayats be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that 400 maunds of potato seeds were received through the Agriculture Department by the Jorhat Anchalik Panchayat in the last year (1966) for distribution to the cultivators during the last potato cultivation season?
- (b) If so, whether the said seeds have been distributed?
- (c) If not, what happened to these seeds?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister of State, Panchayat and Community Development) replied :

15. (a)—No.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : I do not know how the Minister can say 'No' in reply to my question. I have got definite information that 400 maunds of potato seeds were received by the Jorhas Anchalik Panchayat.

Mr. SPEAKER : After all, since the question is put, the whole file is brought and also certain enquiries are made. If the Minister does not get the information, we cannot help anybody.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : When we know definitely and the Minister says 'No', how can we accept the position? I am a Member of the Anchalik Panchayat and so I know the position. Therefore, by giving such a reply he is committing a breach of privilege of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : If you have given any information and you know that the Minister has received the information, you should put that question instead of saying that the information is not correct.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Borbhag) : The point is exactly that. Everybody knows that the Ministers do not have or may not have any personal knowledge about these matters and they are to depend on reports. As soon as they get notice of question, in the usual course of business they send them to the lower level for collecting information. Now, what actually happens is this: a Lower Division Assistant or some such person prepares the answers and sends them up. Sometimes incorrect data. Now if an hon. Member, after giving notice of questions, makes certain enquiries and comes to have certain information.....

Mr. SPEAKER : That's what I have said. If the hon. Member has got in his possession any information it should be given.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : He has that. After the Minister gives the reply if the Member is in a position to say that the Minister is giving an incorrect reply and he is thereby misleading the House and the country, is it not a question of breach of privilege of this House?

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is asking a hypothetical question. If certain information is sought for and this is not given or evaded but the hon. Member concerned knows that the hon. Minister is willingly suppressing that information, which the Member has got in his possession, whether it will be a breach of privilege?

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : I have not said about a Minister willingly doing anything. It might have been done willingly or unwillingly by a Minister. It may be that the Minister has been misled by some inefficient or unscrupulous officer of the lower rank. I do not impute any motive to the Minister. He may have a motive or may not have, I do not know.

Mr. SPEAKER : There is no dispute about that proposition. Here the question was, "Whether it is a fact that 400 maunds of potato seeds were received through the Agriculture Department by the Jorhat Anchalik Panchayat in the last year (1966) for distribution to the cultivators during the last potato cultivation season?" The answer is, "No". My contention is that if the hon. Member has anything to refute that "No" that should be placed before the House.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, I am an *ex-officio* member of the Anchalik Panchayat by virtue of my office. I personally verified this matter from the Agriculture Department and the Block Development Officer. I was told that 400 maunds of potatoes were still lying there. This, I know, is the correct information. The hon. Minister is giving us wrong information and by doing so, he is misleading the House and the people of this State. This is a clear breach of privilege.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Minister, Agriculture, Panchayat, etc) : The position appears to be that the hon. questioner is himself a member of the Anchalik Panchayat. Now if he has certain information in his possession it will be welcome. Here the Agriculture Department is also involved. So, I can assure the hon. Member that with his co-operation the whole matter will be enquired into.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Baghmara, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) : It appears from the reply of the hon. Minister, who has said that the Agriculture Department is involved and thereby answer to this question was prepared without collecting the necessary information from the departments concerned. Sir, it is expected that as the notice of questions is received, the Departments concerned should collect all necessary information. It appears that in this case this was not done before the replies were drafted because of the fact that the Minister-in-charge says that the Agriculture Department is involved. Therefore, the information given is not correct. He has promised further enquiry. From all these, how can we take it for granted that the replies given were based on information collected? The impression is rather to the contrary.

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs) : Sir, the point is different. Replies to questions are framed on reports received from departments and, accordingly, the Minister-in-charge gives reply on the floor of the House. If on any occasion any hon. Member has got further information or a contradictory information about any question and he gives it, the Minister's duty is only to enquire into the matter and ascertain the correctness of facts.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Sir, the question was whether 400 maunds of potato seeds were received through the Agriculture Department. The reply was that no potato seeds were received through the Agriculture Department. Actually the Anchalik Panchayat received some potato seeds but not through the Agriculture Department.

Mr. SPEAKER : For your future guidance, I may say that you should not take resort to technicalities. If you have got any information, you should give it to the House and not shut it out by technicalities.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Sir, the information that I have got from the Department is that no potato seeds were received through the Agriculture Department. Let me explain the position, Sir. The Agriculture Department supplied potato seeds in 1965, but in 1966 the Department discontinued that scheme. Therefore, they did not supply any seeds in 1966 though they did supply in 1965. The Anchalik Panchayat procured some potato seeds in 1966 from some other sources.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North) : The question is whether that blessed Anchalik Panchayat received 400 maunds of potato seeds or not.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : 400 maunds is not the correct figure. They procured about 135 maunds from Shillong and about 150 maunds from the Tinsukia Cold Storage.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : I am sorry the Minister does not know about the procedure for purchase of seeds. Whenever the Anchalik Panchayat wants to purchase seeds directly, they are to purchase with the advice of the Agriculture Department. May I know from the hon. Minister whether these 150 maunds of potato seeds were purchased from Shillong through the Agriculture Department?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Not through the Agriculture Department. The quantity was about 135 maunds which was purchased directly from the growers in Shillong by the officials of the Jorhat Anchalik Panchayat.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Sonai) : May I ask the Minister whether the Panchayats are allowed to make purchases direct from Shillong? Is that the correct position?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Yes, Sir, the Panchayats are allowed to purchase direct from the growers in Shillong.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN : A supplementary comes automatically from what the Minister says on this question. May I, therefore, know from the hon. Minister what is the fate of that 150 maunds of potato seeds?

Mr. SPEAKER : Not 150, but 280 maunds, 150 plus 130 maunds.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN : Whether it is still lying rotten or actually used?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Sir, the 135 maunds collected from Shillong have been distributed to Gaon Panchayats, seed farms, etc. About the 150 maunds that was procured from Tinsukia Cold Storage, 61 maunds have been distributed and the remaining quantity is in godowns, and the matter is being investigated as to why this quantity is so long remaining in the godowns.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: What was the original reply to (b) and (c) ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Replies to (b) and (c) are tails of (a). If (a) goes whole thing goes.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Whether the Minister has information in the file ? He admits that some seeds have been distributed and some seeds are still there. At the beginning he says something and at the end something different. Now, he is depending on technicalities. Is it the way that a Minister should function ? Are we to assume that the information are in the file, but he is suppressing the facts ?

Mr. SPEAKER: You will be wrong in saying that these things were suppressed. The question was interpreted by the hon. Minister in a different way, and therefore, this has happened. The fact that he is giving the information is clear. No information is suppressed.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: One may have the information or one may not have the information or may have scope for the information—we are not concerned with that. We are here concerned about the information given in the House. We are not here for technicalities. We are here as representative of ordinary citizens, and the Minister is expected to reply in a manner intelligible to ordinary citizens and not to introduce technicalities. Is this the way how a democratic Government should function ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMAH (Balipara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is Question Hour. How the hon. Member can deliver a speech ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order ! Order !

On this point I have already given my opinion. The Minister should not rely on technicalities.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now question No.16.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : We want a ruling from you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order ! Order !

Question No.16.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : We will go to question No.26 but before that Sir, we want.....
(Interruption from Opposition Benches).

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Titabar): Will the hon. Speaker be pleased to pass on to question No.17 ? You have twice called the question No.16.

Mr. SPEAKER : Question No.17.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Question No.16.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: No, you cannot call question No.16 now.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : All right, question No.17. This is a bureaucratic mentality.

Re: Utilisation of Grants

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi) asked :

*17. Will the Minister-in-charge of Panchayats be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Examiner of Local Accounts lately reported to Government that he could not generally check up the proper utilisation of the grants given to various Panchayats as most of the Panchayats did not maintain accounts of such grants and as the relevant sanctions were not made available to him and keeping account of grants-in-aid by the Municipal Boards and other Institutions was rarely maintained and without this register his auditors were not in a position to verify the drawals and utilisation of various grants?

(b) If so, what steps Government have taken to stop further issue of grants to these Bodies and Institutions and to realise the unaccounted money from these Institutions?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister of State, Panchayat and Community Development) replied :

17. (a)—The Examiner of Local Accounts reported to Accountant General, Assam and Nagaland that the accounts in respect of Government grants sanctioned to Panchayats could not be checked by him because proper accounts were not maintained and that copies of the relevant sanctions of grants-in-aid were not made available.

Examiner of Local Accounts' report was published in the Audit Reports of 1964 and 1965.

On a reference made by Government, the Examiner of Local Accounts clarified that utilisation of grants were checked in audit on the basis of entries in the Cash Book and other relevant records. Copies of sanctioning letters were received by him regarding grants from Community Development budget from 1964-65 budget.

(b)—Government have taken steps to see that accounts are maintained properly. The question of stopping grants does not arise. If there is any other financial irregularity disclosed in audit Government will take necessary action.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : May I know from the hon. State Minister for Panchayats whether it is a fact that the Examiner of Local Accounts sent 3 strong notes in the years 1965, 1966 and also one very recently in 1967, and if so whether Government has taken any action on the suggestions given on those notices?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Government have taken action on the notices of the Examiner of Local Accounts. We have instructed the department to issue sanctioning orders of grant-in-aid to the Examiner of Local Accounts direct from here, and in fact, the department is sending all the sanctioning order to the Examiner of Local Accounts direct since 1964.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : We want the date.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : On 19th October, 1965.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : May we know whether the Public Accounts Committee also made certain recommendations to this effect, and if so, whether Government has taken any action on those recommendations?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Government has taken action on all these recommendations.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : In the recent recommendations Public Accounts Committee issued certain directions for maintenance of accounts in respect of grants-in-aid sanctions to the different local bodies. If so, what action thereon has been taken for implementation of those recommendations?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Due consideration is being given to all these recommendations.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Whether it is a fact that many irregularities were found by the Examiner of Local Accounts in respect of maintenance of accounts by the Anchalik Panchayats and Mohkuma Parishads, and if so, what is the number of such cases?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Some anomalies were reported in respect of Anchalik Panchayats and Gaon Panchayats but none in respect of Mohkuma Parishads.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Whether it is a fact that clear instructions were issued by Examiner of Local Accounts in respect of maintaining Cash Books and in spite of that whether it is a fact these instructions have not been followed in maintaining accounts by the Anchalik Panchayats and Gaon Panchayats?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : If any instance is brought to the Government, the matter will be looked into.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Baghmara (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : The hon. Minister has stated that some anomalies were reported, may I know the names of these Anchalik Panchayats?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Sir, I have got some information. These anomalies relate to the years 1960, 1962 and 1963 in respect of 19 Anchalik Panchayats, and their names are as follows:

1. Mandia Anchalik Panchayat in Barpeta Subdivision.
2. Kathiatali Anchalik Panchayat in Nowgong Subdivision.
3. Boko Bongaon Anchalik Panchayat in Gauhati Subdivision.
4. Dhekkajuly Anchalik Panchayat in Tezpur Subdivision.
5. Udherbond Anchalik Panchayat in Silchar Subdivision.
6. Rupahi Anchalik Panchayat in Nowgong Subdivision.
7. Kakapathar Anchalik Panchayat in Dibrugarh Subdivision.

8. Salchapra Anchalik Panchayat in Silchar Subdivision.
9. Jalah Anchalik Panchayat in Barpeta Subdivision.
10. Bangog Barbhag Anchalik Panchayat in Gauhati Subdivision.
11. Sipajhar Anchalik Panchayat in Mangaldoi Subdivision.
12. East Jorhat Anchalik Panchayat in Jorhat Subdivision.
13. Chenga Anchalik Panchayat in Barpeta Subdivision.
14. Barpeta Anchalik Panchayat in Barpeta Subdivision.
15. Lawkhowa Anchalik Panchayat in Nowgong Subdivision.
16. Dudnoi Anchalik Panchayat in Goalpara Subdivision.
17. Amguri Titabar Anchalik Panchayat in Jorhat Subdivision.
18. Katigarah Anchalik Panchayat in Silchar Subdivision.
19. Sibsagar Anchalik Panchayat in Sibsagar Subdivision.

Re: Election Office

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi) asked :

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

- (a) Whether the Election office has been made permanent and, if so, since when ?
- (b) If not, why ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

18. (a)—Yes, since 1st April 1953.

(b)—Does not arise.

Re: Overtime Allowances for incumbents working in Election Offices

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi) asked :

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

- (a) Whether the incumbents working in the Election offices are entitled to overtime allowance for doing overtime work during the last General Elections ?
- (b) If the reply is in the negative, whether Government will consider the cases on merit to give some remuneration by way of incentive to the employees of the Election offices for their overtime work ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

19. (a)—No.

(b)—The question of grant of some remuneration in the shape of honorarium for the arduous nature of work done in connection with the last General Elections is under consideration of Government.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know from the hon. Chief Minister when this would be finalised ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: I hope as soon as this Session is over we should be able to do it.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Attacks of Hatimura and Chowaguri Chapar villages in Nowgong

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Barbhag)
 Shri M.A. MUSAWWIR CHOUDHURY (Rupohihat)
 Shri ATUL CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Koliabor)
 Shri MATLEBUDDIN (Mangaldai)

} asked:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a large number of armed people had attacked the villages of Hatimura and Chowaguri Chapar, Nowgong, while they were performing their religious rites of Id-Uz-Zuha by performing kurbani on 22nd March 1967?
- (b) Whether the said gang has also burned houses, looted properties and outraged the modesty of women of the villages?
- (c) What steps have been taken by the Government against the law-breakers and for ensuring the security of the lives and properties of the villagers?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

I. (a)—Yes, there was such an incident at Hatimura under Kaliabor police station on 22nd March 1967.

(b)—Reports reveal that two thatched huts belonging to a villager were burnt and the womenfolk of another house were dragged out and assaulted during the incident. There is however no report of any looting.

(c)—Two cases, one under sections 147/448/323/436, I. P. C. and the other under sections 147/448/354, I. P. C., were registered at Kaliabor police station. Officer in-charge of the Police Station rushed to the place immediately. Deputy S. P., Headquarters and Circle Inspector (East) Nowgong visited the place the following day. Superintendent of Police and D. C., Nowgong also visited the place. A peace committee was formed and the incident was not allowed to have any repercussion. Thirty persons were arrested in connection with these cases.

On the report of the opposite party another case under sections 147/324, I. P. C., was registered but no arrest was made in that case.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Sonai): Has the Chief Minister received a telegram from the Swatantra Party at Nowgong, in which it has been stated inter-alia that properties were looted and raping of women?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Yes, Sir, I have received that telegram, but from the Police reports I have received there is no report of raping but there are reports of women being dragged out of their homes.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi): After receiving this telegram from Swatantra Party from Nowgong, may I know whether the Chief Minister made further enquiries in respect of raping?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: And looting?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: No further enquiry is necessary because these cases have been instituted and whatever was found on local investigation that would certainly be taken up.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: So far as the reports sent to Government—the Chief Minister informed that there has been no case of looting and raping of women but that it was to the extent of dragging Women from their homes. Now, the telegram from Swatantra Party at Nowgong had given further information that it was not only a question of dragging but it was a question of raping. Dragging and raping are not surely the same, and furthermore there was no mention of this in the report—of raping and there was no report of looting. This statement that there was raping and looting has been categorically made by this responsible Swatantra Party. In view of these may I know whether there were further enquiries for these very serious allegations and counter to the reports by the local Police?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: The whole case is under investigation and whatever information I have received is given to the House. So far as the telegram is concerned certainly it will be referred to the proper authority in the district for necessary investigation. Apart from this telegram, those who know about this case—the local Swatantra Party and others—will help the Police.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: The allegations are very serious; offences like looting, molestation of women, like raping, but the sections of the I. P. C. under which the Police registered the cases are not meant for such serious allegations but for lighter things and that is why the telegram was sent and therefore, it was expected that Chief Minister should see that further enquiries are made into these allegations.

Mr. SPEAKER: That has been assured by the Chief Minister.

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Baghmara (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I know whether the reply given by the Chief Minister was on the reports received prior the receipt of the telegram referred to by Shri Haque Choudhury?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: So far as the telegram is concerned it was sent immediately after the incident and these information came later.

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Whether the telegram has been sent for enquiry?

Mr. SPEAKER : The Chief Minister has stated that that would be referred to the local authority.

Shri ATUL CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kaliabor): কলিয়াবৰ সমষ্টিৰ বিসৰূপ মানুহক এই বকমে অত্যাচাৰ কৰিছিল তেওঁলোকে মোলৈ এখন চিঠি দিছিল আৰু তাৰ copy এটা মই মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীলৈ পঠাইছিলো, তেখেতে সেই copy টো পাইছেনে ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : পোৱা হৈছে ।

Shri ATUL CHANDRA GOSWAMI : তেওঁলোকে দিয়া দৰখাস্তত তিবোতা সকলৰ সতীহ হানি কৰা আৰু ঘৰ জলাই দিয়াৰ কথা উল্লেখ আছে; তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে ব্যৱস্থা লব নে ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : নিশ্চয় এইবিলাক কথা অনুসন্ধান কৰা হ'ব আৰু প্ৰয়োজন অনুসৰি ব্যৱস্থা লোৱা হ'ব ।

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Swatantra Party in its telegram to me in this connection sought my intervention on the allegations that the Muslim minority had been under fear, may I, therefore, request the Chief Minister to take special steps in this matter ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Sir, I do not know what the hon. Member means by special steps. It is the duty of the district authority to protect all sections of the population but if they cannot do it it is lapse on their part.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, what I mean is this : the telegram was dated 30th March. This shows that even upto 30th March there was the element of fear. That is why the question of special step arises.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : As I replied, Sir, the district authorities have taken up the matter and the Police made the investigation. They have also formed peace committee. The situation is now under control.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, are we to understand that instead of Police handling the matter the peace committee had to be formed? This is no longer an individual case or only a cases of few people. This has taken a wider range and assumed a communal character. Therefore, it has become necessary for the authorities to tackle this matter not only as a simple law and order situation, rather it should be viewed in its proper perspective so that communalism cannot develop, and may not intensify.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : I wonder what the hon. Member means by simple law and order problem. The question of this nature-particularly on cow slaughter and such things had happened. We do not treat such situation as merely law and order problem rather we have taken proper action on such problems. I can assure the Member that proper action is being taken. With regard to the allegations of looting and raping, these were enquired into but so far the same could not be substantiated. Further enquiries are being made.

Decision of Assam Aided High and Higher Secondary Schools Association to observe "No work day"

Shri ATUL CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kaliabor) asked :

*2. Whether the Government is aware of the—

- (a) Decision taken by the Working Committee of All-Assam Aided High and Higher Secondary Schools Association on 21st March, 1967 that 3rd May, 1967 will be observed as 'no work day' ?
- (b) If so, whether Government have taken any action to fulfil the demands of the teachers and, if so, what are the actions taken?
- (c) What are the decisions of the Government in respect of the different demands of the said association, *i.e.*, fixation of pay of different categories of teachers, amendment of the teachers conduct rules, and to treat them at par with the teachers of the Government Schools ?

Shri JOY BHADRA HAGJER (Minister, Education) replied :

2. (a)—Government have not yet received any such communication from the Working Committee of the All-Assam Aided High and Higher Secondary School Teachers' Association. But a report has come out in the newspaper to this effect.

(b)&(c)—The demands have been examined by Government and certain decisions have been taken on some of the items, and others are under consideration. Government decisions are as follow—

- (i) Selection grade scale for senior under-graduates teacher—Senior under-graduate teachers were given a special scale of Rs.100—250 prior to pay revision of 1964. These were teachers who had completed 15 years service prior to 1959. This was not the selection grade. The pay scales of graduate and under-graduate teachers in both Government and Aided High Schools are the same in 1964 pay revision. These cases were not covered by the Pay Committee's recommendation, 1964 and their cases are being taken up as omitted posts.
- (ii) Craft teachers—The question of prescribing a scale to the Craft teachers has been taken up with Finance Department as omitted posts.
- (iii) The case of teachers of Agriculture in Aided High Schools will be covered as per decision on Craft teachers.
- (iv) Hindi teachers with Parangada—A proposal to give the senior scale of Rs.200—500, to Hindi teachers with Parangada or its equivalents qualifications, teaching Hindi in Secondary Schools from Class VII upwards has been taken up

- (v) Under-Matric teachers—There is no provision for Under-Matric teachers in Secondary Schools and as such there cannot be any scale for under-Matric teachers working in Secondary Schools except what is prescribed for untrained under-Matric teachers in Elementary Schools which is Rs.85—135.
- (vi) Third Class Master Degree holders—The Third Class Master Degree holders teaching elective subjects have not been given the scale of Rs.300—800 even in Government Higher Secondary Schools. A proposal to give that scale to those of them who were appointed prior to 1964 is under examination of Government.
- (vii) Classical teachers—The question of giving graduate scale of Rs.200—500 instead of the junior scale of Rs.140—275 to the Classical teachers of Aided High School teaching in Class VII upwards is under consideration.
- (viii) Vice-Principals of Higher Secondary Schools—Vice-Principals who are not 2nd Class Master Degree holders have been given the scale of Rs.250—700 in the Government Higher Secondary Schools. The special pay in pre-revision scale has been merged. Extension of this scale to their counterparts in Aided Higher Secondary Schools is being taken up.
- (ix) Women Senior Matriculate teachers—It is presumed that Women Senior Matriculate teachers mean Women Matriculate Senior trained teachers. The question of giving them the scale prescribed for Matric Normal teachers, *i.e.*, Rs.140—275 is being taken up. They are now getting a scale of Rs.125—200.
- (x) Assamese and Manipuri language teachers—The question of such teachers in Bengali-speaking area is being examined.
- (xi) Science trained including other Higher Secondary teachers teaching elective subjects—One advance increment has been agreed to for such teachers of Government Schools. Extension of the benefits to Aided School teachers will be taken up.
- (xii) Un-selected Headmasters—Retention of un-selected Headmasters and Assistant Headmasters cannot be agreed to.
- (xiii) Senior Matriculate teachers appointed before 15th February 1961—Pay fixation of Matriculate teachers appointed prior to 15th February 1961 in excess of the sanctioned strength has not been made as yet. Such teachers cannot be retained for long as they will have to be replaced by suitably qualified teachers.

- (xiv) Confirmation of qualified teachers—Teachers teaching elective subjects in Higher Secondary Schools and also teachers of High Schools cannot be made as long as the posts are temporary. Such posts will be made permanent after normalisation of the scheme taken up under 3rd Five-Year Plan. Confirmation will be made according to rules.
- (xv) New Rule 6 of the Amended Assam Aided High and Higher Secondary Schools Employees Rules, 1965 debaring teachers from seeking election to legislative bodies, local bodies or from holding office of any political organisation has been made by Government after due consideration and in the best interest of public service.
- (xvi) The *ad-hoc* D. A. of Rs.10 to the employees drawing pay up to Rs.250 p. m. was given to Government servants only but extension of the benefit to non-Government employees has not yet been taken up.
- (xvii) Retirement benefit including short-term benefit—The matter is under examination.
- (xviii) Winter Allowance to the Aided School teachers in United Khasi-Jaintia Hills—Financial implication is being worked out for necessary examination.

Government proposes to hold a discussion with the representatives of the Association at an early date to thrash out the pending matters.

(Starred Question No.2 was put by the hon. Member in Assamese as follows)

Shri ATUL CHANDRA GOSWAMI: মাননীয় শিক্ষামন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে অনুগ্রহ কৰি কৰি জনাবনে:—

- (ক) যোৱা ২১ মাৰ্চ তাৰিখে গুৱাহাটীত বহা সদৌ অসম সাহায্যপ্রাপ্ত উচ্চ আৰু উচ্চতৰ হাইস্কুল শিক্ষক সন্থাৰ কাৰ্য্য নিৰ্বাহক সভাই অহা ৩ মে তাৰিখে সকলো স্কুলতে শিক্ষক সকলে “কল্প বিৰতি দিৱস” পালন কৰিবলৈ লোৱা সিদ্ধান্তৰ বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে কিবা গম পায়নে ?
- (খ) যদিহে গম পাইছে তেন্তে সাহায্যপ্রাপ্ত হাইস্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ দাবী পূৰণৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে কিবা ব্যৱস্থা লৈছেনে ? যদিহে লৈছে, সেই ব্যৱস্থা কি ?
- (গ) উক্ত সন্থাৰ মুখ্য দাবী কেইটাৰ অৰ্থাৎ বিভিন্ন পৰ্যায়ৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ বেতন নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ, শিক্ষক সকলৰ আচৰণ বিধিত সংশোধন বেচৰকাৰী আৰু চৰকাৰী স্কুল শিক্ষক সকলৰ সৈতে সমতা স্থাপনৰ দাবী সম্পৰ্কত চৰকাৰৰ সিদ্ধান্ত কি ?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : (Charaibahi): Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether this decision has been communicated to the Aided High School Teachers' Association ?

Shri JOY BHADRA HAGJER : Sir, this decision has not been communicated, but the Association knows many of the decision taken by the Government.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, when this House can expect final decision on this vital issue ?

Shri JOY BHADRA HAGJER : Sir, Government proposes to meet the representatives of the Association. After I meet them and hear them a final decision will be taken.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : When the Government is going to meet them, Sir, whether any communication has been sent to this effect.

Shri JOY BHADRA HAGJER : I say, Sir, at a very early date.

Shri BHUBANESWAR BARMAN (Patacharkuchi) : ১৯৬৪ চনত নতুনকৈ বেতন নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰাৰ সময়ত ২৫০ টকাতকৈ কমপোৱা কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক ১০ টকাকৈ Ad-hoc allowance দিয়াৰ যিটো সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিছিল সেইমতে Aided School ৰ শিক্ষক সকলকো ১০ টকা দিয়াৰ সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিছেনে ?

Mr. SPEAKER : It has been already replied under item No.(xvi).

ইয়াৰ উত্তৰ ১৬ নম্বৰ Item ত ইতিপূৰ্বেই দিছে।

Shri JOY BHADRA HAGJER : Sir, the reply is already there.

Shri BHUBANESWAR BARMAN : বেচৰকাৰী প্ৰতিষ্ঠানৰ কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে ইয়াৰ পৰা উপকৃত হবনে ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The question of extension of benefit to non-Government employees has not yet been taken up.

Shri BHUBANESWAR BARMAN : কাৰখাৰী আয়োগৰ ৰিপোৰ্টমতে শিক্ষক সকলক নিৰ্বাচনত উঠাৰ কাৰণে অনুমতি দিয়া হ'ব। জিকিলে ৫ বছৰ আৰু হাবিলে সেই কালছোৱাৰ কাৰণে চুটি ল'ব লাগে। সেইবিষয়ে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে কিবা সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিছেনে ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : আমাৰ ইয়াতো আগতে সেইটোৱেই আছিল। নিৰ্বাচনত উঠিব লগা হলে চুটি ল'ব লাগে। পিচত বহুবিলাক শিক্ষানুষ্ঠানৰ কালৰ পৰা চৰকাৰক জনোৱা হৈছে যে কেবল সেইটোৱেই যথেষ্ট নহয়। গতিকে শিক্ষা ৰাজনীতিৰ পৰা আঁতৰি থাকিব লাগে। যিবিলাক ৰাজনীতিত থাকিব খোজে সেইবিলাকে স্কুলত নথকাই ভাল।

Mr. SPEAKER : Whether Rule 6 has got any legal basis ?

Shri JOY BHADRA HAGJER : Sir, the legal basis is that people in the teaching profession should not indulge in politics.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Re: Cost of Claims Commissioner under the Motor Vehicle Act

Shri JAGANNATH SINHA (Udharbund) asked :

11. Will the Minister in-charge of State Transport be pleased to state—
- Whether the post of the Claims Commissioner under the Motor Vehicles Act for the District of Cachar is lying vacant ?
 - If so, since when this post is vacant and what are the reasons ?
 - If the reply to sub-question (a) is in the affirmative, the minimum period within which the post will be filled up ?

Shri PRABIN KUMAR CHOUDHURY (Minister of State, Transport) replied :

11. (a)—There is no Claims Commissioner under the Motor Vehicles Act. The post is known as Member, Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal. The post is lying vacant at present.

(b)—Since 21st July, 1966. The delay in filling up the post is due to the fact that the Government were looking for a person with requisite qualifications and experience.

(c)—Action is being taken to fill up the post as soon as possible.

Re: Popragaon-Dawkanagar E. & D. Scheme in Kokrajhar Subdivision

Shri UTTAM CHANDRA BRAHMA [Sidli (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

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

- Whether lands had been acquired for executing Popragaon-Dawkanagar E. & D. Scheme within Kokrajhar Subdivision in 1959 ?
- If so, whether the compensation for the land acquired has been paid to the people ?
- If not, when the compensation will be paid ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister, Revenue) replied :

12. (a)—The land was requisitioned in 1965, not acquired in 1959.

(b)—Not yet paid.

(c)—Compensation will be paid after publication of the acquisition Notification in the Gazette which has already gone to Press.

Re: Meeting for the improvement of Police and General Administration

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi) asked :

13. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that in the last meeting of officials and non-officials, held in Shillong certain recommendations for the improvement of Police and general administration and also to create better relation between police and the public were made ?
- (b) If so, how far the said recommendations have been implemented by the Government ?
- (c) If not, why ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

13. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A public relations cell has been recently sanctioned for the Police Department which will undertake publicity measures and contact public for improvement of Police-Public relations. The senior Police Officers met in a conference in November 1966 to discuss measures for dispersal of unlawful assemblies and riotous crowds with minimum use of forced Police vehicles are being provided with protective wire netting and a protective garment has been designed for use of Police personnel engaged in dispersal of unlawful assemblies to enable them to stand up to brickbating and stone throwing by riotous crowds with a view to reduce the number of incidents in which firing has to be resorted to. The bulk manufacture of protective garments and cane shields will be taken up shortly. Steps have also been taken up to provide suitable staff in Police Training College and for establishment of Detective Training School and Forensic Science Laboratory for improvement of standards of training and detection of crime. The questions of tightening up of Police discipline and modernisation of Police force through provision of increased number of vehicles, wireless equipments, telephones, cameras, etc., are being examined and gradually implemented. Action has been taken for publication of essential parts of Assam Police Manual. Proposals for improvement of housing facilities and other amenities for Police personnel are under active consideration. On account of the economy cut, however, the Police housing construction programme has suffered a slight set back.

(c)—Does not arise.

Re: Financial assistance to religious institutions

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi) asked :

14. Will the Minister, Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government was pleased to call for applications from the religious institutions before the 4th General Election for awarding financial assistance ?
- (b) If so, whether the said grant has been distributed ?
- (c) What was the respective shares received by each Subdivisions and districts ? (Please furnish the names of the institution receiving such grants).

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Finance) replied :

14. (a)—Yes. The last date fixed for submission of applications was on or before 31st October, 1966 and not before the 4th General Election.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—A statement is placed at Library table.

Re: Utilisation of Grants-in-aid by the Udarband Anchalik Panchayat and Development Block

Shri JAGANNATH SINHA (Udharbund) asked :

15. Will the Minister of Panchayat be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that a large sum of money received from time to time from the Government as grants-in-aid by the Udarband Anchalik Panchayat and Development Block is lying in bank unutilised ; if so the reasons thereof ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the decisions taken by the Anchalik Panchayat by resolutions allocating sums on different heads from timely utilisation were not carried out by the Executive Officers of Udarband for Development Block ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that this office has for a long time been and is still being run by officers below the rank of Block Development Officer ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that some adverse reports and objections have been submitted by the Accountant General Staff on audit against Udarband Development Block Office ? If so, what steps have so far been taken from the Government to rectify the lapses ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that grants made to Udarband Anchalik Panchayat by Advisory Committee of Mahkuma Parishad since 1965 still remain unutilised for non-submission of scheme for which reminders were given by the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar ?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister of State, Panchayat and C. D.) replied :

15. (a)—Yes. Out of grants received by the Udarband Anchalik Panchayat and Development Block, Rs.1 lakh has been kept in fixed deposit and Rs.25,000 in saving bank account. The reasons for non-utilisation of grants are that the public contributions as required were not forthcoming in time and also because cement which is required for construction works is not available in required quantities.

(b)—It is not a fact. Execution of different works have been entrusted to executive agencies, viz., Gaon Panchayat which have not yet completed their works. Hence the full amount sanctioned against different projects could not be utilised.

(c)—The post of Block Development Officer is lying vacant since 21st December, 1966 as the officer had to be released urgently for appointment as Election Officer. The post is held by the Lady Social Education Officer of the Block.

(d)—The Audit Report discloses that replies to previous Audit Report were outstanding and that some records were not available to the Audit party. The latest Audit Report was received by the Block Development Officer on 25th November, 1966 and replies are under preparation. One senior accountant was deputed from the headquarters to reconstruct the Panchayat accounts and to assist the Block Development Officer for the same purpose. On receipt of replies from the Block Development Officer to the Audit Report, further action will be considered by Government.

(e)—The schemes were submitted by the Block Development Officer to the Silchar Mahkuma Parishad on 24th March 1966 and these schemes were approved by the Deputy Commissioner on 10th May 1966 regarding Rural Water Supply. Out of these schemes only 2 water tanks are under construction in two Gaon Panchayats, viz., Udarband Gaon Panchayats and Latigram Gaon Panchayat. But ring wells have not been constructed due to non-selection of sites by the Gaon Panchayats concerned and non-availability of cement.

Adjournment Motion—Closure of Five Tea Gardens in Cachar District

Mr. SPEAKER : I have received notice on an Adjournment Motion filed by Sarvashri Dulal Chandra Barua and Sailen Medhi. About the admissibility of it if they want to say anything they can do so.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter that we want to discuss through an Adjournment Motion fulfils all the conditions of Rule 56 because it is a definite matter, matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence. Sir, we have received communication today that certain five tea gardens in the district of Cachar have been declared lock-out by the management which has made nearly 5,000 labourers jobless. Sir, at the same time it also involves the question of law and order. It is a definite matter covered by Rule 56. It is also free from all the restrictions imposed by Rule 57. It is a matter of urgent nature and specific in character. Therefore, Sir, I submit you will be kind enough to allow this matter to be discussed through an Adjournment Motion by considering its extra-ordinary nature.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, here is a joinder of five cases of closures. Five gardens are supposed to have been closed. The Rule says that it should discuss a definite matter of public importance. These five gardens are situated in different places. They have been closed on different dates. It is not

merely a question of lock-out, but I understand it is a matter of closure. Some have closed for financial difficulties and some for some other reasons. It is not a matter that one garden has been closed, secondly, closure of garden and industrial units is not a new phenomenon. All the time throughout the country some industrial units are being closed. What units are closed? Those that become uneconomic, so to say. It is not an urgent matter of such public importance that all discussions of this House should be stopped in order to discuss that thing. As soon as I got a wire I sent the Labour Officer and asked the employers and workers to come and meet me, but nobody has come and met me, not even the Unions. Only one man has been seen going from one bank to another for financial accommodation. I have no information what has happened.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Barbhag): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on what the Minister in charge of Labour has just now stated about the admissibility of this Motion, I want to say a few words. First of all the Minister has stated that it is not the case of one garden, it is five gardens which have been closed, and, therefore, the Rules do not cover it. Sir, it is a very strange argument. If it would have been a single or solitary question we could have ignored it but rather because not one but five gardens where hundreds of labourers' lives are involved have been locked out all on a sudden and thereby the life and security of these poor people who are citizens of the State are in danger, therefore, Sir, a specific situation has arisen. It is not a question of an instance, the question is one of a situation and that situation has developed because not one but five gardens have been locked out all on a sudden, and this is very recent only since yesterday. Of course, I do not know whether the Minister in charge considers this suffering of the labourers to be a matter of importance, to be a matter of urgency or not. We, of course, consider this to be very urgent and very important. It is also very recent, and therefore, all the fundamental principles that are to be satisfied for an Adjournment Motion are there. So far as this Motion is concerned, we want to discuss the situation which has arisen out of the lock-out of five tea gardens of Silchar in the District of Cachar very recently (since yesterday). This we could not have discussed before, and we have no other means or way of discussing this matter which we cannot also leave aside, we cannot allow it to drift. This is a matter which this House should take seisin of and should discuss because this is a question of national policy, this is a question of labour policy, this is a question of as to what is the attitude of this Government towards the labour population. Therefore, this is very important.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard Mr. Barua, Mr. Tripathi and Mr. Bhattacharyya. I find that in view of my ruling on the Adjournment Motion regarding establishment of Naga check-posts, I cannot consider it so important as to sidetrack the business of the House today. Further I find this matter can be discussed also in the Governor's address and lastly the matter is not one which involves more than ordinary administration of law under the Industrial Disputes Act. Therefore, I disallow the Motion.

The next item. Call attention notice by Shri Sailen Medhi.

Calling Attention to a matter of Urgent Public Importance Seizure of explosives at Amguri of Sibsagar District

Shri SAILEN MEDHI (Jalukbari): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the hon. Chief Minister under Rule 54 of the Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly on the subject of seizure of explosives at Amguri on the 15th of March, 1967. In this connection I want to draw the attention of the Chief Minister to the newspaper reports on the subject published in the Dailies of 15th and 16th March in *Natun Assamiya* and *Assam Tribune* and some other papers also—wherein it is stated that 327 packets of gun powder, 400 detonators and some live wires were found with one Naga youngman named Sashiba Ao, and these articles were seized by the Village Defence Party on the 15th of March near a Petrol Depot at Amguri. Along with this report I also want to draw the attention of the Chief Minister to a report published in the "Asom Batori" dated 26th March, wherein it is stated that, Sir, I quote the news, item which is in Assamese.

২৬ মাৰ্চৰ অসম বাতৰিত শ্বিলঙৰ পৰা দিয়া এটা বাতৰি প্ৰথম পৃষ্ঠাত এইদৰে প্ৰকাশ হৈছে—“প্ৰকাশ যে গুৱাহাটীৰ কাঁচী বজাৰত এজন লোকৰ পৰা শ্ৰীচাচী আও নামৰ নগা যুৱক জনে বস্ত্ৰখিনি দুটা ট্ৰাফিকত ভৰাই এখন টেক্সীৰে আমগুৰিলৈ নিছিল। নগা জনে বস্ত্ৰখিনি নগা বিদ্ৰোহীহঁতৰ ব্যৱহাৰৰ অৰ্থেই নিয়া বুলি জানিব পৰা গৈছে।

আমগুৰিত ধৰা পেলোৱা বস্ত্ৰখিনি যিজন ব্যৱসায়ীয়ে যোগান ধৰিছিল তেওঁক গ্ৰেপ্তাৰৰ বাবে পুলিচে এই পৰ্য্যন্ত চলোৱা সকলো প্ৰচেষ্টা ব্যৰ্থ হৈছে।

শ্ৰীচাচী আওক পুলিচে অলপতে আমগুৰিৰ পৰা গুৱাহাটীলৈ আনোতে তেওঁক বস্ত্ৰ দিয়া বুলি অভিযোগ কৰা এজন দোকানীক গুৱাহাটীৰ পুলিচে গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰিছে। পিচে এইজন লোকৰ ঘৰৰ পৰা কোলে পুলিচে কোনো আপত্তিজনক বস্ত্ৰ উদ্ধাৰ কৰিব পৰা নাই। ইতিমধ্যে এই অৰৈখ খাৰ-বাৰুদ কঢ়িওৱা টেক্সী খনৰ মালিক আৰু অন্যান্য সংশ্লিষ্ট লোকক জেৰা কৰি থকা হৈছে বুলি প্ৰকাশ। টেক্সীখনো হেনো আটক কৰা হৈছে, কিন্তু ড্ৰাইভাৰ জনক আটক কৰা নাই। টেক্সীখনৰ মালিক জন হেনো গুৱাহাটীৰ পলটন বজাৰৰ এজন ব্যৱসায়ী।”

In this connection I want to say that since a few years back this type of sabotage activities are taking place in the rail track from Lumding to Amguri and there were several instances of explosions and removal of fish plates from the track causing death and injury to so many people. These sabotage activities started from 1959 and it has come to the extreme point during the years 1962-66. I shall quote from News paper cutting. In 1963 April they attacked passenger train with dynamites and modern weapons and as a result 6 died, 27 others were injured. In 1964 they removed 200 feet rail track. In 1965, November, they fired on Mail Train and as a result 3 persons died. In 1966, on 12th February there was explosion on Lumding Dimapur line and on 16th February the same year explosion occurred in between Farkating and Kamarbanda and as a result 33 died and 51 injured.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please confine to the particular instances, otherwise the calling attention loses all its merits.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[1st April,

Shri SAILEN MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not an isolated instance in this railway track during the whole period. So, I want to draw the attention of the Chief Minister, whether the Chief Minister has taken any action or whether Chief Minister took any steps to stop this sabotage activities and to save the people of the whole State. In this connection I want to draw the attention of the Chief Minister when he was the President of the A. P. C. C. In 1956 there was a proposal and a memorandum.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Please confine to the instance, other-wise the calling attention loses its significance.

Shri SAILEN MEDHI: I want to ask the Chief Minister whether these activities have got any connection with the explosion that occurred recently. Whether these are the activities of the hostile Nagas. I want to ask the Chief Minister whether any action has been taken during this period by our Government to construct alternative Railway line to avoid this.

Mr. SPEAKER: After all you are not making a speech; you are drawing the attention of the Chief Minister to a particular point.

Shri SAILEN MEDHI: Sir, I want to know from the Chief Minister whether any enquiry has been conducted. It has been published in *Assam Batori* where it has been stated that a Naga hostile has been arrested and some fused wire have been recovered from his possession. I want to know from the Chief Minister whether any action has been taken against those who were connected with this Naga gentleman and were indulging in smuggling these explosives to the Nagaland. I want to draw the attention of the Chief Minister whether any steps have been taken up till now.

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker. Sir, on the morning of 14th March, and not on 15th March one Sashiba Ao, of village Longkhum, Mokokchung District, Nagaland, was found in possession of two trunks of explosives while he was waiting for transport at Lahaty petrol pump, Amguri, for proceeding to Mokokchung. These two trunks contained 327 special gelatine sticks, 400 blasting caps (detonators) in 4 packets, 100 in each with markings 'Spotonki' 'Detanurjaca' and 20 bundles of fuse wire while he was waiting for transport at Lahaty for proceeding to Mokokchung. All the explosives with the trunks were seized. Sashiba Ao along with Nandalal Chowkidar of Lahaty Patrol Pump, Amguri who was suspected to be in intrigue with the Naga was arrested.

Case No. 8 (3) 67 under section 5 (A), Explosive Substance Act has been registered at Amguri Police Station, District Sibsagar. The investigation of the case is in progress.

During investigation Sashiba Ao disclosed that the explosive in question was purchased by one younger Ao by the name Mayan Ao from one Puspa Bishya at Gauhati on 11th March 1967 evening at Rs.900 and he (Sashiba Ao) carried the same to Jorhat in a truck and thereafter went to Amguri by hiring taxi No. ASP. 185. Younger Ao alias Mayang Ao engaged Sashiba Ao to carry these articles to Mokokchung on condition to pay him a sum of Rs. 50 at Mokokchung. Sashiba Ao further stated that once he met Younger Ao alias Mayang Ao at Gauhati before the purchase of explosive and Younger

*Speech not corrected.

Ao *alias* Mayang Ao sent him to Mokokchung to fetch a sum Rs. 900 from one Angamtoshi Ao, a Hindi teacher of Lumgnishi High English School which was earlier arranged by Younger Ao *alias* Mayang Ao, Sashiba Ao accordingly went to Mokokchung, received Rs. 900 from Angamtoshi Ao and paid the same to Younger Ao *alias* Mayang Ao at Gauhati, Sashiba Ao said that he was carrying the explosives in question to deliver to Mapumeran Ao of Lungling village, a P. W. D. contractor for road construction purpose at Mokokchung as per previous arrangement. Requisition has been sent to Mokokchung Police to arrest and produce Mapumeran Ao in custody at Sibsagar Jail.

Puspa Baishya and Angamtoshi Ao have been arrested. Arrangements are being made to bring them to Sibsagar Jail for the purpose of interrogation. Superintendent of Police, Kohima has already been requested to cause arrest of Younger Ao *alias* Mayang Ao.

The sources as to where from Puspa Baishya obtained the explosive could not, as yet be ascertained.

Shri SAILEN MEDHA: Whether the Intelligence Branch is aware of the fact that the weapons were removed by the Naga Hostiles in connection with this?

Mr. SPEAKER: This does not arise. This is a separate question altogether.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi): The Chief Minister has stated that the explosives were purchased from a certain shop. If that is so why our Intelligences were not in a position to stop this trade?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Detections have taken place because of the vigilance of the Village Defence Party, Police and Intelligence. But it is true that it has not been possible to go to the root of it fully.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far our rules are concerned regarding Calling Attention Notices, not more than one such notice shall be raised at the same sitting. We have received altogether five notices for Calling Attention and out of those one has been already dealt with. Regarding the rest four it will be proper to follow the Lok Sabha Rules where there are directions which read, "Where several calling attention notices have been included in the order paper on the last day of a session, the Minister may make a brief statement in respect of the first notice. In respect of the other notices, statements may be laid on the Table by the Ministers concerned. A copy of the statements so laid may be supplied to the Members tabling notices". I would like to follow those directions of the Lok Sabha.

Re: Unreplied questions and answers

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi): Mr. Speaker, Sir May I submit one thing? Sir, for those questions for which notice has been given but are not replied, whether they will remain valid or fresh notice will have to be given?

Mr. SPEAKER: Replies of those questions will be sent to members concerned by post.

Nomination of Members to constitute the Committee on Subordinate legislation

Mr. SPEAKER: In pursuance of Rule 251 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I nominate the following members of the Assam Legislative Assembly to form the Committee on Subordinate Legislation:

1. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury.
2. Shri Ataur Rahman.
3. Shri Jogen Saikia.
4. Shri Gajen Tanti.
5. Shri Atul Chandra Goswami.
6. Shri Benoy Krishna Ghose.
7. Shri Brington Buhai Lyngdoh.

In pursuance of Sub-rule (1) of the Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I appoint M. Moinul Haque Choudhury to be the Chairman of the said Committee.

Nomination of members to constitute the Committee on Government Assurances

Mr. SPEAKER: In pursuance of Rule 257 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly I nominate the following Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly to form the Committee on Government Assurances—

1. Shri Biswadev Sarma.
2. Shri Lakshya Dhar Choudhury.
3. Shri Karuna Kanta Gogoi.
4. Rani Manjula Devi.
5. Shri Mathius Tudu.
6. Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi.
7. Shri Pitsing Konwar.

In pursuance of sub-rule (1) of the Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I appoint Shri Biswadev Sarma to be the Chairman of the Committee.

Nomination of members to constitute the Rules Committee

Mr. SPEAKER: In pursuance of Rule 259 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I nominate the following Members to constitute the Rules Committee—

1. Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury.
2. Shri Abdul Matlib Mazumdar.
3. Shri Debeswar Sarmah.
4. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami.
5. Shri Stanley D. D. Nichols Roy.
6. Md. Abul Kasem.
7. M. A. Musawwir Choudhury.
8. Shri Abala Kanta Goswami.

The speaker shall be the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee.

Nomination of members to constitute the Library Committee

Mr. SPEAKER: In pursuance of Rule 313 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I nominate the following Members to constitute the Library Committee for the year 1967-68—

1. Shri Rothindra Nath Sen.
2. Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya.
3. Shri Mathura Mohan Sinha.
4. Shri Nakul Chandra Das.
5. Mrs Pranita Talukdar.
6. Md. Matlebuddin.

Shri Rothindra Nath Sen is appointed to be the Chairman of the Committee.

Statement made by the Chief Minister regarding the situation prevailing in the Mizo Hills District

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA, (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir. The other day, I promised in this House to make a statement regarding the situation prevailing in the Mizo Hills District. I propose to make that statement now. It may be recalled that last year also I made a statement in this connection. Those honourable Members who were in the House last year will recall that I had made a statement on the situation in Mizo District. The armed insurrection launched by M. N. F. on the night

*Speech not corrected.

of 28th February and 1st March, 1966 was then barely a few days old. On that occasion I had said that the Government was not entirely unaware of the activities of the M. N. F. during the preceding year in raising and training volunteers and of reports, though not fully confirmed, of import of arms from Pakistan. Yet it was hoped that the leaders of the front will not take the path of violence not only because of their word of honour given to me as the Chief Minister of the State but also their own good sense in realising the utter futility of such a venture. I had, therefore, described the up-rising as an act of betrayal of the solemn pledge given to me but what is more a betrayal of the Mizo people, the vast majority of whom are peace loving and even while keenly desirous of economic advancement and political changes are loyal citizens of India.

That up-rising has now entered its second year and it is only right that the members of the House should feel concerned about it. Why, it may be asked, has it not been possible to restore normal conditions within this time? It is not easy to give a simple answer to this question. The reasons are complex and manifold. First it must be remembered that this is no ordinary law and order problem but an armed insurrection albeit ill-conceived and misguided. Here we are facing neither mobs of rioters nor conventional armies but bands of rebels operating in guerilla fashion. To this must be added the formidable difficulties of terrain and communications or the lack of that which give a certain advantage to guerillas vis-a-vis the forces of an established authority who cannot possibly employ the same methods as the out-laws in maintaining themselves or in any other matter. The fact that the operations are being staged in a part of our own country and against a section of our own people adds not a little to the various restraints placed on our security forces which would have been absent in the case of action against an enemy on alien soil. Finally it must be remembered that the present state of our relations with certain neighbouring countries does not permit the diversion of our forces to the Mizo District even if this might in some view be considered necessary.

However to enumerate the limitations and difficulties under which the administration and the conduct of the operations have been proceeding is not to say that things are not going well or according to plan. There is absolutely no reason for taking a pessimistic view.

Honourable Members will recall how the district administration ruled under the initial blow treacherously delivered by the M. N. F. during the first week of March, 1966. The subdivisional town of Lungleh, the police stations of Kolosib and Champhai and the headquarters of the Pawi-Lakher region at Saiha, to mention only some of the more important centres, had been taken over by the rebels and the Government servants in those places made prisoners. Even Aijal, the district headquarters was in a highly dangerous state for a couple of days and was practically over-run except for a small defended perimeter within the Assam Rifles areas. I am glad to be able to inform the House that the administration was reestablished at all those places in the shortest possible time with the exception that the principal administrative centre for the Pawai-Lakher Region is now at Longtlai instead of Saiha as the former place was found to be more suitable in the present circumstances. Besides now administrative centres have been opened at mammit, Darlawn, Dhanabi and Serchhip under I. A. S. A. C. S. Officers.

The speedy induction of the Armed Forces and their advancing columns scattered the M. N. F. The hard core still then intact retreated into the jungles and interior villages with their stocks of arms and ammunition including those obtained from Pakistan and those captured from our forces in Mizo District in the initial stages of their attack on Champ-hai, Kolosib, Lungleh and Aijal in addition to a large number of private arms taken from the villagers. The need for reestablishing administration on a secure basis, reorganization of the forces and presentation of fresh operational plans and difficulty of terrain and communication rendered the task of pursuit and mopping up immediately difficult. A sizeable number of hostiles also crossed over to neighbouring East Pakistan. Then followed a period of comparative lull during which M. N. F. insurgents were obviously repairing the damages inflicted by the security forces and following a policy of "wait and see" before the advent of the 1966 monsoon. With the end of the dry season they renewed their activities and kept up a tempo of their activities by occasional firing, ambush and kidnapping of loyal elements. They also forcibly collected food and money from the villages inside Mizo District and also occasionally raided neighbouring villages in Cachar District.

I had mentioned earlier that a number of our officers including the Subdivisional Officer, Lungleh, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Saiha and Subdivisional Officers, Public Works Department, to mention only a few, had been made captive by the insurgents. Some of them had been taken away to Pakistan. There was great anxiety about their safety and welfare. However, I am glad to be able to say that almost all of them have returned without suffering any physical or mental damage. Unfortunately, two officers of the S. I. B. and one officer of the State S. B. are still untraced and their fate is not definitely known. There are unconfirmed reports that they have been done to death.

The monsoon of 1966 passed with minor skirmishes and a stalemate ensued when the administration backed by the security forces were in command of the important centres while the hostiles more or less had the run of the country-side where the helpless villagers were caught between the devil and the deep seas. They were alternately visited by the hostiles and the security forces both of whom claimed their loyalty and support. The former besides subjected them to all manner of exactions and even torture in individual cases. In these circumstances it was felt that a new initiative had become necessary as much in the interest of the villagers themselves as that of the satisfactory conduct of the operations for bringing the hostiles back. Thus a scheme of regrouping the large number of small and scattered Mizo villages in some selected centres was adopted. This is by no means a new idea. It has been tried with considerable success in some other countries under similar conditions and even at home in the territory now known as Nagaland. In the latter the measure could not be completed and run to its logical conclusion as administrative reforms followed closely by political changes were ushered in. Under this scheme about 106 villages situated astride the Vairengte-Aijal and Aijal-Lungleh roads with a total population of 50,000 have been regrouped into 18 larger rural units which are called P. P. V's (Progressive Protected Villages). The scheme was completed in three phases over a period of nearly 10 weeks. Initially there was considerable local opposition to the scheme which is quite understandable as nobody can really be enthusiastic about leaving his own hearth and home for a new place even for

for his own good. Some families disappeared on the eve of grouping or subsequently deserted from the regrouped centres. But most of them eventually came in or returned except individuals whose consciences were not clean. These as may be expected have gone to join their fellow travellers in the jungles. The people in the Progressive Protected Villages are now settling down cheerfully in their new homes when protection and supplies are assured besides educational and medical facilities and work for those who need employment.

Needless to say the idea of grouping proved an anathema to the hostiles who reacted sharply and almost savagely to the operation like an animal cornered. They realised that cut off from the villagers on whom solely they depended for their provisions and comfort—even though extracted at the point of the gun—they could not exist. Each phase of grouping particularly the first and third between Aijal and Lungleh was marked by desperate attempts by the hostiles to foil it. There were a number of case attacks and ambushes on the security forces engaged in the operations and they sustained considerable casualties. This was mainly because the forces had to function in smaller parties than usual for escorting the villagers heavily laden with their possessions to the new centres and could not adopt the necessary tactical measures in all cases. On the basis of success achieved and experience gained the extension of the regrouping scheme to other areas of the district has been kept in mind.

Besides the problem of protection of the villages and denying access to those from the M.N.F., there is the very important task of securing the Pakistan border. As members know the Mizo District is almost entirely surrounded by foreign countries on three sides. The countries are Burma and Pakistan. While the former have the friendliest relations with us and have turned down all overtures on the part of the M. N. F. to gain bases and supplies from them the role of Pakistan has been most sinister and reprehensible. According to information available, large bands of hostiles are still crossing and recrossing the border with Pakistan in which country they have established bases both for operation and training. Our border areas with Pakistan in Mizo District are predominately inhabited by a non-Mizo tribe, the Chakmas, who profess the Buddhist faith. Unlike other border districts the contiguous areas of Pakistan here are hilly, forest clad, thinly populated and backward in development and communication. There was only one trade route of any importance across the border, namely the Lungleh-Debagiri-Rangamati track. The usual border problems like encroachment, smuggling, cattle lifting, kidnapping if not wholly absent were less acute. This border was, therefore, lightly held with only four B. O.P's. when the disturbances broke out. The distances between the posts were, therefore, considerable and the southern flank was almost uncovered.

Apart from the problem of crossing and recrossing the border by the M. N. F. here, hostile activities were most pronounced in the Chakma areas. A systematic campaign of terrorising the loyal Chakmas was launched by the M. N. F. in a bid to cause a mass exodus. It is known to hon. Members that very little sympathy exists between the Mizos and the Chakmas who are in a very low state of development and are in need of special consideration even in what is generally a backward region of the State. It will be recalled how sharp and vociferous was the reaction in some quarters when there was an influx of Chakma refugees from East Pakistan at the beginning of 1964. It was not therefore surprising that the Chakmas

came in for very special attention from the M. N. F. Several Chakma villages were burnt, people killed and kidnapped and subjected to torture and extortion. At one time there were about 10,000 Chakmas in Demagiri who had been uprooted from their homes. Due note was taken of these dangerous developments and the security of this vital area has been strengthened by establishing a number of additional posts.

The improvement of the road from Lungleh to Demagiri has been taken up on priority basis through the Border Road Organisation. Until this road as well as other lateral road which have been planned are through it will not be possible to do very much more as all movement into and out of the area is now heavily dependent on air support. But I can assure the house that all that is possible is being done and the situation is much better now than it was a year ago.

Civil supplies became very difficult last year throughout the district. With road communications disrupted and then heavily damaged both by weather due to early advent of the monsoon last year and increase in vehicular traffic necessitated by troop movement. Recourse had to be taken to air-dropping on a fairly large scale. This year also the position continues to be fairly acute in the southern areas though in the Aijal Subdivision things are considerably better. A regular system of convoys is working in which the State Transport Organisation has played a commendable part beside of course the security forces who were charged with the responsibility of road and convoy protection. There have been frequent attempts on the part of the M. N. F. not only to interfere with convoys but also with the flow of local produce into the tranships. This of course added to the difficulties particularly at Lungleh where fresh supplies cannot be reached from the plains in adequate quantities and in satisfactory condition.

Educational institutions at most places are functioning quite satisfactorily now and a number of examinations under the auspices of the Gauhati University and the Board of Secondary Education have been successfully held since the disturbances broke out. There were many attempts by the M. N. F. to bring about a total break down of the educational system but in this they have failed.

Very strong pressure is being maintained by the security forces on the M. N. F. There is almost daily contact with the hostiles in one place or another and many of their hide-outs have been located and destroyed. A large number of their supply dumps in thick jungles have also been unearthed and disposed of. On the advice of the local officers Government declared on 28th January, 1967, an amnesty to those M. N. F. volunteers and aothers who would surrender with arms. Although the immediate result was not as satisfactory as was expected the number of surrenders without arms has, of late, increased. During the current year M. N. F. volunteers and 12 important persons including one important leader in the persons of J. F. Manliana, still recently a member of this House, have so far surrendered some with arms. Besides some other important leaders like Lalhruaia, self-styled Vice Chief of the so-called Mizo National Army, Hrangching, self-styled Commissioner of the Southern Area, R. Halleluia, self-styled Chief Accounts Officer and Colonels-Ralliantawna, self-styled member of the Parliament, etc., were apprehended by the security forces in the course of operations. A number of self-styled officers of the armed wing of the M. N. F. have been killed in action.

Besides their armed activities the M. N. F. have also tried to project an image of themselves as a proper underground Government. Some rebel leaders have assumed various civil designations according to their fancies such as Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, etc. Nobody of course takes these attempts at taking on the trappings of an ordered Government seriously and people regard them as what they really are that is a band of armed bandits.

Hostile propaganda is directed towards the main purpose of sustaining the morale of the rebels which often touches a low ebb and keeping up a tempo of uncertainty and panic. Thus from time to time notices are posted or rumours circulated of an impending attack by the M. N. F. on Aijal, Lungleh or some other place. The dates are often changed and in the end either nothing happens or a few stray shots are fired. Sometimes armed hostiles manage to enter the towns in the guise of innocent villagers and carry out a sudden shooting exercise. In two recent cases of such kind two police officers, both loyal Mizos, were the victims. Any intruders, however, were apprehended or driven off due to the vigilance of the police and the security forces.

To sustain morale M. N. F. propaganda takes the line that their leaders are in touch with foreign powers and they must keep the struggle going. Pakistan and China will sooner rather than later attack India when they will give the Mizo their emancipation. Recently a rumour was in wide circulation that Laldenga has reached England *via* Pakistan and the M. N. F. cause will be taken to the U. N. There is no confirmation of Laldenga having actually arrived in England or any other western country and this may be really a propaganda stunt for the benefit of the M. N. F. rank and file.

In conclusion I would again emphasize that our operations in Mizo Hills both in the civil and military sphere have been progressing quite satisfactorily in the given conditions of terrain and geography and with the resources that the country is able to spare for the purpose from the many demands upon them. There is, therefore, no cause for alarm and despondency though it is only right and proper that hon. Members in the house as well as the people outside should continue to take interest and watch the development in that strife-torn district with discernment but not undue alarm. I must however, admit that though the administration is getting into its stride a full sense of security and normalcy is yet to return. Many ancillary factors are responsible for this besides the activities of the M. N. F. The Mizo District has always been suffering from a feeling of isolation. This has been heightened by increased uncertainties of road conditions, shortage of supplies including food stuff, irregularity of mail, evacuation of a large number of the local population from Aijal and elsewhere to other places in the State.

Rumours of impending attacks by the M. N. F., threats and actual cases of kidnapping and murder though not as numerous as one would think add not a little to the sense of insecurity and abnormality. The recent murder of Kapchhunga, President of the Chin National Front and another at Lawngtlai and that of the Police A. S. I. in Aijal are certainly regrettable and matters for concern but I can assure the House that our forces are waging and will continue to wage a relentless campaign and the rebel will not be given any respite till he realises his folly and lays down his

arms. The presence of the civil administration is also being increasingly felt and its arms are reaching out in all directions. Here it must be remembered that a vacuum was created by the collapse of the District Council Administration in the interiors.

Lastly, I wish to pay tribute to all those, both civil and military, who are so bravely and cheerfully shouldering such onerous responsibilities on behalf of the Government in that remote corner of the State and with which I trust that the House would wish to associate itself.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Barbhag) : Sir, if I have heard the Chief Minister aright, he said in a beautiful phrase that the innocent Mizo people are between the devil and the deep sea of the security forces and the hostiles. May we know from the Chief Minister which side is the devil and which side is the deep sea in between the security forces and the hostiles ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : It is for the hon. Members to interpret.

(Shri Dulal Chandra Barua rose to speak).

Mr. SPEAKER : May I draw the attention of the hon. Members to Rule 55 which says "A statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made."

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY (Cherrapunjee, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) : Sir, a few days back when a calling attention motion was raised, certain parts of the discussion referred to other matters which were not included in the calling attention motion and at that time both the hon. Speaker and the Chief Minister said that a further statement would be made. I think there are at least two important points which have not been touched. May we know whether these will be touched in future ? One is relating to the escape of Mizo hostiles from Silchar and Aijal jails. May we know who are the people escaped and how it came about ? We also want further clarification about the actual kidnapping and killing of the President of Chin National Front, Mr. Kaphungach, the party in charge of the Pawi-Lakher Regional Council. So far as our information goes, he was in his village home which was surrounded by the Mizo volunteers and he was kidnapped and killed in the jungle. We want to have a definite clarification on this, whether our information is correct or the information given in the Chief Minister's statement, that he was killed by sniping is correct.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibāhi) : Sir, we gave a calling attention notice about the escape of Laldenga. That point also has not been clearly mentioned. We want to discuss this matter on a substantive motion. But we do not know whether if we move a motion now, it will be kept pending or it will be allowed.

Mr. SPEAKER : You submit a notice, I will see.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Sonai) : Sir, may I submit that the Chief Minister's statement kindly be circulated.

Mr. SPEAKER : That will be done.

Presentation of the Report of the unfinished work of the Estimates Committee

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Assam Legislative Assembly under Rule 226 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly relating to unfinished work of the Estimates Committee.

Presentation of the Twelfth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Sir, I beg to present the Twelfth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

Presentation of the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Subordinates Legislation

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Sonai) : Sir, I beg to present the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

Mr. SPEAKER : There is calling attention motion from Shri Moinul Haque Choudhury. That motion will be dealt with in the same manner as the other calling attention motions.

Personal explanation by a Member

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Barbhag) : Sir, may I make a personal explanation? Yesterday when the Minister-in-charge of Parliamentary Affairs said 'Thakkar Bapa was also in the Sub-Committee of the Constituent Assembly,' I said that he was not a member. I am very sorry for that. I consulted the records and found that he was also there in the Sub-Committee and another Member of this House—he is now in Parliament—Shri Rupnath Brahma was also in that Committee.

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Debate on the Governor's Address

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Titabar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so it happened that the Bardoloi Committee was constituted with illustrious and knowledgeable leaders of various shades of opinion of this State. Yesterday I ended saying that the 6th Schedule was enshrined in the Constitution with a view to safeguard the interests of the Hill brethren, who are supposed to be backward in certain aspects and not in the same level of development with the Plains people. Sir, the District Councils were functioning with varying success in four Hill Districts, i.e., Khasi & Jaintia Hills, Garo Hills, Mikir & North Cachar Hills and Mizo Hills and a Regional Council was functioning in Pawai-Lakher region. ✓ Sir, opinion would vary about the earnestness and zeal with which the District Councils were administered. I think it may be said without fear of contradiction that not much of the funds available to these District Councils were spent on really developmental schemes. In consequence, progress was not very satisfactory. Again it had the effect on the Hills people inasmuch as they were not satisfied with the pace of development. Unfortunately, this dis-satisfaction was diverted towards their demand for a Hill State. Meanwhile the States Reorganisation Commission came. The Members of the States Reorganisation Commission Shri Saiyed Fazal Ali, Shri H. N. Kunjru and Sardar K. M.

Panikar were amongst the most eminent scholar—statesmen of India of all times. This Commission dealt with this matter in these words. Sir, I shall only briefly quote the portions having direct bearing on the subject. I am reading from page 184 of the Report of the States Reorganisation Commission.

✓“The Hill districts have pressed the case for the formation of a Hill State. This demand, reiterated at the Tura (Garo Hills) conference of Tribal leaders in October, 1954, contemplates the unification of all the Hill districts mentioned in Part A of the table appended to the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, including also the Naga Hills district. The Naga National Council seeks independence from Assam and India and to remain aloof from the proposed hill state. As a compromise between these extreme positions, but for entirely different reasons, the formation of a Kamatapur State consisting of Goalpara, Garo Hills, Cooch Behar, Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, or of a Purbachal State consisting of the area round Cachar has also been suggested.”

Sir, after discussing the various important matters in this connection the States Reorganisation in paragraph 684 at page 185 says, “It is of paramount importance to establish a stable administration in the north-east based on the goodwill of the Tribal people, and it is clear that such an administration will have to be primarily concerned with the well being of the tribes. We have therefore examined the proposal for a Hill State with great care and sympathy and with the particular regard to these objectives.” ✓ Then the Commission goes on to say—Sir, I am quoting relevant short paragraphs only from the States Reorganisation Commission's Report just to show that from time to time most eminent statesmen, lawyers and scholars have been giving their best attention to this subject, I mean the reorganisation of the eastern region of India. In paragraph 686 of the Report the Commission says, “The problem is, in a substantial measure, an inheritance from the pre-independence days. The extremist demands of the present time reflect what has sometimes been labelled the ‘national park’ approach. This was fundamentally the British policy and there were attempts to demarcate the tribal zones and to isolate them, as far as possible, from external influences, preventing, in particular, immigration from elsewhere into the scheduled areas. This went to the extent of stopping Indian officers from entering these areas. The ‘inner line’ regulation in the pre-independence period, although it was ostensibly intended to discourage unnecessary interference with and the economic exploitation of the tribal people, was administered rigourously so as to exclude all contact between them and the inhabitants of the plains districts.”

Again in paragraph 689 the Commission says:

“The results of the ‘inner line’ regulation policy, as administered by the British, illustrate the dangers of deliberate and complete segregation. That policy, however, in point of fact, was not enforced so much against Europeans and Christians as against the other Indian communities. The broad effect of throwing the tribal areas open to some but not to all external influences during the period of the British occupation has been to divide the tribal people themselves, and to create, as a result of British and missionary influences, a new class, which has so far remained quite distinct from the general population either in the hills or in the plains. The creation of a new hill state will, in our opinion, accentuate these distinctions. It will therefore, prove, in the long run, against the interests of the scheduled

tribes." Then again in paragraph 694 they say, "Separation will add to the cost of administration, and the co-ordination of policies and programmes between the State of Assam and the hill areas on the one hand and between the hill districts themselves on the other will become more difficult." At para 697 they summarised their conclusion with the following words:—

✓ "Taking all these factors into consideration, we have come to the conclusion that the formation of a hill state in this region is neither feasible nor in the interest of the tribal people themselves. The hill districts, therefore, should continue to form part of Assam and no major changes should be made in their present constitutional pattern."

Apart from that, at para 14 of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, it is thus stated,

"(1) The Governor may at any time appoint a Commission to examine and report on any matter specified by him relating to the administration of the autonomous districts and autonomous regions in the State and under this provision the Governor can appoint a Commission which will be constituted of persons of high standing from outside the State, who have sympathy with the tribal people, so that it may be examined whether due regard for the interests of the people in hill areas may not be wanting. This being so, what circumstances call for drastic Reorganisation of the State ?

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Baghmara, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): On point of information, Sir, this Commission's Report is for the Government of India, now Government of India knowing all these recommendations of the Commission.....

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Titabar): I do not yield. When the hill people found that the States Reorganisation Commission did not grant the separate hill state, one of the Ministers.....(Captain Williamson A. Sangma took his stand to speak).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sangma, if you want any clarification you can do so after the hon. Member finishes his speech.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: That would be much better and would not disturb the strand of my thought, especially, because I am speaking in a foreign language.

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: On a point of explanation, if Mr. Sarma is speaking even in support of the tribal people, may I know whether he was convinced himself that the circumstances prevailing today are the best for the good of the tribal people and if that is so why today the hill people are dissatisfied with the present set up of the administration? Therefore, it is not relevant to refer to this because we are discussing on the Governor's address where some sort of mention has been made regarding the recent Government of India's decision to reorganise Assam.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: A lecture, now has been inflicted on me by Captain Sangma.

As I have already stated if any clarification is required on my speech, he may ask for same after my speech is over, instead of disturbing now in the trend of my thought.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I hope, the hon. Member will note down the clarification he wants and after Mr. Sarma finishes his speech he may ask for any clarification he likes.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I do not think Mr. Sangma would get any right to reply, but any clarification he wants may be asked by Mr. Stanely Nichols-Roy and to the best of my ability I will try to clarify the points raised.

I was referring to the Report, for two reasons, firstly, the consideration and decision of these eminent persons of all-India repute certainly carry more weight than my utterances, and secondly, I am trying to show how this aspect of the matter, I mean the administration in the hills areas in the Eastern Frontier State, has exercised the minds of the statesmen like our erstwhile Prime Ministers and others. That is how we should go into the whole question if we seek to have a proper perspective of the subject matter.

✓ Sir, I was saying that when the States Reorganisation Commission did not recommend hill state or rather they turned down this proposal the movement for a hill state became slack and one of the leaders, who led the deputation to the Commission, I mean, my esteemed friend, Mr. Sangma, joined the Cabinet. Thereafter things happened which were not entirely happy. The state of Nagaland was created, which I think, is one of the most disastrous mistake in the history of this Eastern Region. The Nagaland state was created after violent agitations and serious disturbances in the Naga Hills. Thereafter, in 1960 the Official Language Act of Assam was passed, and although the Act clearly stated that Assamese language would not affect the hills people and although it was defined clearly that this Official Language would not apply in the hills, the Hill Leaders made much of it. Soon after All Parties Hill Leaders Conference was formed, Deputations and discussions with the Prime Minister followed. I would quote from a few letters to the hill leaders of Assam from the Prime Minister incorporated in the Report of the Commission. I would, in this connection, mention that our Late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehruji and Lal Bahadur Shastriji, till their last breath, these two illustrious sons of India who died in harness, asserted that the unity and integrity of Assam should not be disturbed. I would refer to page 35, para 82 of the Report, it reads:

“It will be recalled that the discussions between the Prime Minister and the hill leaders were started in the context of the APHLC's demand for a separate State made in the wake of the decision of the State Government to declare Assamese the official language of the State.” Regarding how the Federal Plan came into being that I will refer later. ✓

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Member will remember that the time of the House is very short. How long will the Member take to finish his speech?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I will finish before the lunch break.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North) : The hon. Member said yesterday that he would require only half an hour more today to finish his speech but he has taken much more time.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I have not spoken for more than 10 minutes now. I hope that representatives of the people should not be anxious to leave the House.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN : We are not placed as the hon. Member, he should remember that we are in the border of the State and our headache is much more in this question.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I sympathise with the hon. Member.

Sir, at page 35 of the Report of the Commission on the Hill Areas of Assam 1965-66, explaining his proposals to the General Secretary of the APHLC the Prime Minister in a letter dated 19th February, 1961 said "We were anxious however that we should provide for changes and administrative arrangements which would allow the fullest scope to these districts to develop and advance according to the genius of the people there, while at the same time maintaining the integrity of the State of Assam." Sir, I underline the words 'maintaining the integrity of the State of Assam'.

Soon thereafter the substance of the Prime Minister's proposal on 4th and 5th October, 1963 was clarified to some M. Ps. in the following terms—"The hill areas of Assam will have an autonomous administration in respect of subjects to be earmarked for separate administration in the hill areas. The list of subjects will be drawn up by the Commission to be appointed by the Prime Minister after full enquiry." We further find that throughout the discussion the Prime Minister was emphatic about the preservation of the unity of Assam. He reiterated on several occasions that the scheme of autonomy will have to be within the framework of the State of Assam. Replying to the supplementaries arising out of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.33 on 12th February, 1964 the Prime Minister explained the broad features of his scheme as follows:—

"It is clear that the first thing was that the unity of Assam should continue. Subject to that, greater autonomy should be given to the hill districts". At one of his meetings with the representatives of the APHLC he clearly explained to them that "it would obviously be difficult to have two cabinets within the Cabinet, as it would go against the very basis of the Cabinet form of Government." This is what was told by the Prime Minister, Sir, and I do not want to dilate on it. I pass on. We have got to refer to this, because it is necessary to understand how the Federation scheme came, how things are shaping from 1961 to 1967. These are therefore very relevant. Sir, in a letter to the leader of APHLC, the Prime Minister said that the unity of Assam should not be disturbed and the scheme of autonomy will have to be within the framework of the State of Assam.

Sir, the recommendations of the Pataskar Commission read like this: "The basic problem of the hill areas is that of economic development, for which the two regions of Assam the hill areas and the plains are interdependent. The links of the hills with the plains constitute a factor of importance to both of them; and there is great need of preserving these links. The scheme assured the hill people that the State Assembly would pass laws applying to them with the approval of their representatives, and that they would have full opportunity to control their special, cultural and personal matters and the development of their areas within the framework of the larger political and economical life of Assam."

This is what Pataskar Commission said. Now, Sir, this Pataskar Commission's recommendations were not taken very seriously by the hill friends. We do not know what reasons prompted Government of India to put forward the Federal Plan. From our side, the Congress suggested minor alterations for instance, that it was not democratic to have such a set up where the Governors could over ride the decision of the popularly elected Bidhan Sabha. That was only a suggestion. We did not object to the Pataskar Commission's Recommendations; now all on sudden a communique of the Government of India 13th January last appeared in the newspaper containing the Federation proposal. The hill leaders went to Delhi and they invited the Prime Minister to attend a meeting in Shillong convened by the hill leaders. I would not dilate on this point further. Anyway on 13th January last, this communique came at a time when almost all people were busy with the last General Election. I for myself did not know about this till the other day because I was at a distance from Jorhat town for a considerable time where I could not easily get a copy of newspaper and there was no time even if I got it. So I did not know about the Federation plan at the time. But what will be Federation like is even now anybody's guess. According to the plan there will be a plains unit and there will be a hill unit. But whether they will satisfy the mass people or not nobody can say. There is a lesson before us. When the Nagaland was created, it was thought that the problem would be solved. But with what result is known to everybody today. The State of the Nagaland was created, but the hostilities continue. As late as the 19th of this month another two men were kidnapped by the Naga hostiles from my own constituency. These have not been traced yet. Our hostile neighbour namely Pakistan is training the Nagas and the Mizos in guerrilla warfare. There can be no assurance that such things will not be repeated when the Federation is created of hill and plains units. Our experience of Nagaland points that the same will be repeated here also. We have this on the authority of Mr. Thaosen, the President of Mikir and North Cachar Hills. So the ultimate result will be that Federation will not serve the purpose and there will be a demand for separate hill state later on. My friend Mr. Sangma delivered the other day a hard-hitting speech where he asserted that the Hill State was in the offing. I submit, Sir, that it is a sort of tactics just to influence the hill people and to frighten the plains people. There cannot be a Federation of units of all the hills. I think the Mikir and North Cachar hills will not join and must be left out. There may be a federating unit consisting of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the Garo Hills only.

Sir, let us examine another aspect of the matter what we are seeing since the announcement was made. It was reported in the newspaper that in Uttar Pradesh there is already an agitation. We read it in the Assam Tribune, dated January 17, 1967. The news-item said "The success of All Parties Hill Leaders Conference in Assam in achieving a separate autonomous status for the hill districts has lent a fillip to the similar demand in hill districts of Uttar Pradesh."

"For the first time, several candidates have decided to contest on the issue of a separate hill state against Congress candidates. The movement is led by Maharaj Manavendra Shah of Tehri Garhwal who was himself a Congress candidate for the Lok Sabha seat from the Tehri Parliamentary Constituency." They are trying to have a hill state there. Now,

Sir, in our own State as soon as the Federation is constituted of two units—one of the plains and another of the hills, shall not those friends, who demand Kamatapur with Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri and Goalpara, ask for another State? Then where shall we go? What about the murmur which is going on in the foothill tracts in the northern tribal belt of Assam for autonomy? Are not the foreign missionaries inciting the people that they should also have an autonomous tribal belt which have regional autonomy? Already during the last election some of our Congressmen were sought to be given the instruction that they should not oppose Federal Plan. Some sort of an agitation of this kind is already there. What is going to happen from Goalpara to Lakhimpur, in the foot-hill tracts? Then again, some friends of our Miri Community are asking for another separate land for the Miris in the foot-hills in the district of Lakhimpur, comprising of some areas of Lakhimpur and Subansiri Area, and some areas of NEFA and the district of Sib-sagar also. After the Federation is formed, when these people will see that the United Khasi and Jaintia Hill District are having autonomy, they are having their own legislature and their own Ministers, will not they ask for it in regional autonomy also? If that be so, there will have to be district states, which can never be viable or feasible. Therefore, I submitted at the beginning that this Federation is nothing but fragmentation of Assam, and in this fragmentation we will go nowhere but to utter ruin. My friend has talked of the hill people's good will and the plains people's good will. There may be difference between us, the politicians. After all, we the politicians are meddling in this affair. The people are innocent, they want food, clothing, education and certain other amenities. They are innocent of Federation or Hill State. If Mr. Sangma and myself—by way of illustration only, not that I am a leader, will agree, will the mass people disagree?

Then, Sir, what is my suggestion? My suggestion is very simple and clear. It is this. Delhi cannot decide our destiny. Delhi should not decide our destiny. I am not saying that they are not our leaders. They are our leaders whom we esteem. There are also public leaders like Shri Jay Prakash Narayan, we all respect them. But in matters of our State, we should have statesmanship to evolve certain formula to solve this problem. I would suggest that let Government discuss this matter threadbare with our hill leaders and other people. They I mean, the leaders of Government and APHLC should sit together around the table and discuss the matter. I would very much wish that these leaders would retire to a convenient big house like the Government House, in the Peak Cottage in Upper Shillong; we people would provide them with food and all other amenities required and they must not come out of the house without arriving at an agreed solution of the problem.

(Laughter)

I resent this laughter. It is a very serious matter and we should not laugh. I make this suggestion in all seriousness. If we go to Delhi without solving our own problem, fall at the feet of the Delhi leaders and say "give us the Hill State" or "do not give this Federation for this will bring fragmentation of this North-east frontier region," which is vulnerable from all sides, we only lose our case and make ourselves miserable. With hostile Pakistan in the south and inimical China to our

North, we are in deep trouble, Geography has so ordained that Mr. Sangma and myself, and the hills people and the plains people, must live together. If we are to live together, it does us no good to quarrel amongst ourselves. Let us sit and devise some ways and means, Pataskar Commission's report may be the basis of discussion. I do not say it should be accepted or rejected in toto. The Pataskar Commission's report should form the basis. We should sit in a friendly way in a cordial atmosphere and discuss till we arrive at a solution amongst ourselves. With that solution, leaders of both hills and plains should go to Delhi. Let us not show that we are bankrupt of statesmanship. If we fail, our progeny will not forgive us. History will give the verdict: Assam's leaders failed to have a solution and that brought lasting injury to the succeeding generations.

Thank you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2 P.M. Shri Lakshyadhar Choudhury will continue after the House resumes.
(The House then adjourned for lunch till 2 P.M.)

(After Lunch)

Shri LAKSHYADHAR CHAUDHURY (Kamalpur):

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বন্ধুবৰ শ্ৰীবিপ্লৱ শৰ্মাই মাননীয় ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণৰ ওলগ জনাই দাঙি ধৰা প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰি দুখীত হৈছে। কিয়নো এই ভাষণত অসমৰ ৰাজনৈতিক, অৰ্থনৈতিক, সামাজিক আৰু সাংস্কৃতিক জীৱনৰ এখন নিখুট নিকা ছবি ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে আমাৰ আগত দাঙি ধৰিব পৰা নাই। জয়জয়তে মই কব খোজো যে ৰাজনৈতিক জীৱনত এক ধাৰাৰ সৃষ্টি হ'বৰ উপক্ৰম হৈছে। আমাৰ দেশত যেতিয়া খাদ্যাভাৱ হৈছে তেতিয়া আমি গৰীব জনসাধাৰণৰ কথাহে ভাবিব লাগিছিল। কিন্তু আমাৰ চৰকাৰে ইংৰাজৰ দিনৰ Divide and Rule নীতি প্ৰয়োগ কৰি পাহাৰী ভাইসকল আৰু আমাৰ মাজত অৱিহা-অবিহা সৃষ্টি কৰিছে। আজি আমাৰ সদনত হ'ব লাগিছিল খাদ্যৰ বিষয়ে আলোচনা; দুখীয়া ৰাইজৰ সমস্যা যাৰ দৈনন্দিন আয় মাত্ৰ ২৭ পয়ছ। কিন্তু তাৰ পৰিবৰ্তে দেশখনক ভাগ ভাগ কৰা আলোচনা হৈছে। আজি “জীয়ে অসম মৰে কোন, মৰে অসম জীয়ে কোন?” ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত স্পষ্টভাৱে নোকোৱাৰ কাৰণেই এইটো হৈছে। আজি আমাৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীচলিহাই স্পষ্টভাৱে জনাই দিয়ক যে অসম বিভক্ত হ'ব নোৱাৰে। ইয়াৰ আগতে যেতিয়া অসমক সমষ্টি গোটত যুক্ত কৰিবৰ কাৰণে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে ফলি পাতিছিল, ৰাইজৰ সহযোগত স্বৰ্গীয় গোপীনাথ বৰদলৈৰ নেতৃত্বত অসমক সমষ্টিত ভুক্ত হোৱাৰ পৰা ৰক্ষা পৰিল। সেই কাৰণে আজি শ্ৰীচলিহাই কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰক কৈ দিয়ক যে অসমত কেতিয়াও এই Federation হ'ব নোৱাৰে। এই সময়ত আমাৰ ডাঙৰ কথা হৈছে অৰ্থনৈতিক সমস্যা সমাধান। আজি এটা পৰিকল্পনাৰ পিছতো শতকৰা ৮০ জন মানুহৰ আয় কিমান হৈছে? শুল্কৰ শ্ৰীজয়প্ৰকাশ নাৰায়ণৰ নেতৃত্বত যি কমিটি গঠন কৰি দিছিল, সেই কমিটিৰ ৰায়মতে শতকৰা ৮০ জনৰ বাৰ্ষিক আয় মাত্ৰ ২০০ টকা আৰু শ্ৰীৰাম মনোহৰ লোহিয়াৰ মতে টকা ৬৮-৬৫ পয়ছ মাত্ৰ। অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই অসমৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক অৱস্থাৰ কথা আগতে কৈ আহিছো। চাৰিটা পৰিকল্পনাৰ পিছতো ৰাইজৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা ল'ব পৰা নাই। কৃষিৰ ক্ষেত্ৰতো আমি একো আগবাঢ়িব পৰা নাই। আমাৰ উদ্যোগত যিমান টকা খৰছ কৰা হৈছে তাৰ একো তৃতীয়াংশ যদি কৃষিত খৰছ কৰা হ'লহেঁতেন নিশ্চয় কৃষিৰ উন্নতি হ'লহেঁতেন। আজিৰ চৰকাৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ মাত্ৰ ২০ ভাগ মানুহৰ কাৰণে; ইওপৰি গধৰ চৰকাৰ হৈ পৰিছে।

আজি আমাৰ দেশৰ ভাগি পৰা অৰ্থনৈতিক অৱস্থাত আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰে যি আদৰ্শ দেখুৱাইছে সেইটো অতি দুখৰ বিষয়। আমাৰ ইমান কম মানুহৰ ৰাজ্যখনৰ প্ৰশাসনৰ বাবে ১৭ জন মন্ত্ৰী নকৰল কৰা হৈছে, আৰু গৰ্ভকোষত আৰু কেইজনমান আছেই। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত গৰ্ভ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিবৰ হ'ল। মই Supplementary Budget ৰ আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত কৈ আহিছিলো যে চৰকাৰে ভ্ৰমণ বানচত বহুত টকা খৰছ কৰিছে। কিন্তু কৃষি উন্নয়নৰ কাৰণে উপযুক্ত পৰিমাণৰ টকা খৰছ কৰা হোৱা নাই। যিও বা খৰছ কৰিছে সিও ভুল পৰিকল্পনাৰে খৰছ কৰা কাৰণে বাইজৰ কৃষি ক্ষেত্ৰত উপকাৰ হোৱাতকৈ অপকাৰহে বেচি হৈছে। আজি আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ বিদৰ্বে বানপানীৰ প্ৰকোপ বাঢ়ি গৈছে তাৰ মূল কাৰণ হল ভুল পৰিকল্পনাৰে প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰা মথাউৰিবোৰ। ভুল পৰিকল্পনাৰ মথাউৰিৰ কাৰণেই কমলপুৰত ছমাহলৈকে বানপানী হৈ আছিল। মথাউৰি বন্ধা ইঞ্জিনীয়াৰসকল বানপানীৰ প্ৰকোপত তালৈ যাবলৈ ভয় কৰিছিল।

ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত বান বিধ্বস্ত মানুহৰ কাৰণে যথেষ্ট সাহায্য দিয়া হৈছে বুলি উল্লেখ কৰিছে। মই কও যে কমলপুৰ আৰু অন্যান্য বহুতো অঞ্চলত মানুহক জনমুৰি আধা কিলো বুট মাহ আৰু আধা কিলো আটা দিয়াৰ বাহিৰে একো কৰা নাই। অনাহাৰত কমলপুৰ অঞ্চলত চিত্তৰাম দাস আৰু আন কেজনমান মানুহৰ মৃত্যু হৈছিল। উপায়াস্তহীন হৈ কোৰ্কা গাওঁত এজন মানুহে ডিঙিত টীপজৰি লগাই মৰিছিল।

শিক্ষাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত চাওক আমাৰ ২০ লাখ L. P. স্কুলৰ ছাত্ৰ আছে। তাৰে ১৬ লাখ মাটিত বহি পঢ়িব লগা অৱস্থাতেই আছে। ৰাজ্যৰ ৮০ ভাগ মানুহৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে একো কৰিব পৰা নাই যে তাৰেই এটা জলন্ত নিদৰ্শন। মাত্ৰ বিশেষ শ্ৰেণীৰ ২০ ভাগ মানুহৰ কাৰণে কিন্তু যথেষ্ট কৰিছে। আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী সভাত বোলে আৰু দুজন মন্ত্ৰী লোৱা হ'ব। সেইফালৰ পৰাও ক'ও দেশৰ এনে অৱস্থাত যিমান পাবে ব্যয় সংকোচন কৰক। স্বৰ্গীয় ববদলৈ দেৱৰ দিনত কমিশ্যনাৰ পদটো উঠাই দিয়া হৈছিল কিন্তু আজি ৫ জন কমিশ্যনাৰ হল। অথচ প্ৰশাসনৰ কোনো উন্নতি হোৱা দেখা নাই।

চৰকাৰে বিভিন্ন উদ্যোগ প্ৰতিষ্ঠান পাতিছে যদিও তাত স্থানীয় বা থলুৱা মানুহে কোনো স্ববিধা পোৱা নাই। আনকি ঠিকা আদিও দূৰৰ পৰা অহা মানুহে পাইছে আৰু তেনেকুৱা বহুতো নিদৰ্শন মই দেখুৱাব পাৰো।

চৰকাৰী হিচাব মতে বানপানীত ১৫,১৬৬টা ঘৰ বিধ্বস্ত হৈছিল আৰু শস্য কিমান নষ্ট হৈছিল সেইটোও দিছে। অন্ততঃ পকে এককোটি টকাৰ ওপৰৰ মূল্যৰ শস্য নষ্ট হৈছে। এইবিলাক হোৱাৰ পিচত, অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিবলৈ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা লোৱা হোৱা নাই। যিবিলাক মথাউৰি আছে সেই বিলাকৰ দ্বাৰা কাম হোৱা নাই। ৰক্ষিয়া কমলপুৰ, হাজো আদি অঞ্চলৰ মানুহে বানপানীৰ প্ৰকোপত, খেতি কৰিব পৰা নাই। বানপানী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ কাৰণে এয় পৰিকল্পনাৰ অন্তৰ্গত অজস্ৰ টকা ব্যয় কৰা হৈছে। কিন্তু ক'ত ? ছিলঙত নে গাৰো পাহাৰত নে নগা পাহাৰত ? আমি সকলোৱে জানো যে, বানপানীৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ ব্যয় অন্যান্য আঁচনিৰ বচনাৰ স্থল—ছিলঙ পাহাৰ; য'ত বানপানীৰ কথা নাই। সেইদৰেই এইটো পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে যে, ভৈয়ামৰ পৰা অফিচ আদি উঠাই আনি ছিলঙত পাতিছে আৰু কিছুমান কেন্দ্ৰীয় অফিচ অসমৰ বুকুৰ পৰা অন্য প্ৰদেশলৈ নিছে। ইয়াৰ পৰা বুজা যায় যে, চৰকাৰে Scorched Earth নীতি লৈছে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে—গুৱাহাটীত মাটি-বাৰী লোৱাৰ পিচতো Post Master General ৰ অফিচটো ছিলঙ পাহাৰলৈ উঠাই আনিছে। কাৰণ গুৱাহাটীত তেখেতৰ ল'ৰা-ছোৱালী পঢ়াবলৈ

হেনো উপযুক্ত চাহাৰী শিকানুষ্ঠান নাই। তেখেতৰ পৰিবাৰৰ কাৰণে উপযুক্ত ক্লাব নাই। এইবিলাক বৰ দুখৰ কথা। এই বিলাকেই যদি চৰকাৰৰ নীতি হয়, জীৱনৰ বাস্তৱ কোন খিনিত—সকলোৱে বুজিব পাৰিব।

তাৰপিচত অসমত কি নাই—অসমত সোণ পায়, কয়লা পায়, তেল পায়—তাৰোপৰি ১৭ জনীয়া মন্ত্ৰী মঙলীও আছে। অথচ তেলৰ অভাৱত গাঁৱৰ ঘৰত ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীয়ে পাঠ আওৰাব নোৱাৰে। গাঁৱত মানুহৰ খাবলৈ নাই; মানুহে খাবলৈ নাপায় মাৰছে। যদি কোনোবা মন্ত্ৰী মোৰ লগত গাঁৱলৈ যায় গাঁৱৰ অৱস্থাৰ লগত তেখেতক মই পৰিচয় কৰি দিব পাৰিম। আমাৰ বোগান বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে কৈছে—কিছুমান সমাজ বিৰোধী লোকে চাউলৰ চোৰাং বেপাৰ কৰিছে। মই কওঁ, সেই সমাজ বিৰোধী—সমাজহত্যাকাৰী সকলক Defence of India Rule মতে ধৰিব লাগে।

(সময়ৰ সঙ্কেত)

তাৰপিচত, যিবিলাক দুৰ্নীতি পৰায়ণ society বুলি গোস্বামী কমিটিৰ ৰিপোৰ্টত প্ৰকাশ পাইছে সেই সমিতি বিলাককো কাম কৰিবলৈ দিয়াটো বন্ধ কৰিব লাগে। নহলে সমৰায় আন্দোলনত বিশেষ প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়াই দেখা দিব। আমাৰ শতকৰা ৮০ ভাগ লোকেই খেতিয়ক, এওঁলোকৰ উন্নতি আৰু কৃষি আৰু শস্যৰ অধিক উৎপাদনৰ কাৰণে যদি বিশেষ ভাবে চোৱা নহয়—দেশ কান্ধাল হৈ পৰিব। এসময়ৰ শস্য শ্যামলা অসম কাঙাল অসমত পৰিণত হব ধৰিছে। আশাকৰো আমাৰ চৰকাৰে এই বিলাকৰ ব্যৱস্থা অনতি পলমে কৰিব।

(সময়ৰ সঙ্কেত)

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, সময়ৰ অভাৱৰ কাৰণে আৰু বেচি কব নিবিচাৰো, ইমানতে মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হলো।

Shri BISNURAM MEDHI (Hajo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this debate on the Governor's Address. It is known to every one of us living in Assam that this strategic State is confronted with a large number of burning problems and difficulties and our very existence will depend on how we can tackle these problems and difficulties. Some of them should be considered as national problems and both the Government as well as the Opposition should try to tackle them jointly.

Sir, it is very difficult within this short time to deal with all these problems with which we have been confronted. That is why I shall leave out other matters for the present and deal only with the most important problem which has been agitating the people of the Hills and Plains, viz., the problem of reorganisation of the State on a federal structure. The other day I had the pleasure of hearing the admirable speech delivered by Capt. Williamson Sangma. He spoke with a great deal of vehemence, like the vehemence of a youngman of about 30. Yet I would expect him to have the sportsmanship to consider dispassionately some of the facts which will be placed before him in spite of the strong views that he holds about this matter. I am quite sure, Sir, that he will have the patience to hear me. I appreciate his zealous enthusiasm in delivering his speech in support of the reorganisation scheme on a federal structure. But I am quite sure that with the resilience of his young mind he will consider dispassionately the views expressed by others which may be different from those held by him

He would also consider the students' movement throughout the plains and in some places of the hills also. Sir, as I have already said. I would like to confine my submissions today to the reorganisation of the State under a federal structure and place before the House different aspects of the problem and the views expressed by different persons so that everyone can dispassionately consider this problem anew. Sir, I am craving your indulgence and the indulgence of the House to make a brief and precise statement but before I make my statement I would like to place a few facts and figures before the House.

According to the Census of 1961, there are about 20 lakhs of Scheduled Tribes in the hills and plains and out of that 9 lakhs 55 thousand are in the plains. Now, the other day Capt. Sangma stated that the progress of development was very slow in the hills. I agree that the progress must be accelerated so that the sense of frustration that is lingering in the minds of the people inhabiting those areas may vanish. But this can only be done by the joint efforts of the people representing both the hills and the plains. The other day Capt. Sangma in his speech tried to show that he represented the views of all the hills people. But I ask him to consider about these figures. The Mizo Hills contains about 1,66,000 people. There are two sections in Mizo Hills, one section of the people there are rebels and aligned themselves with Pakistan and like the hostile Nagas they want complete independence of the district and the major section are loyal people, they do not want to join the Hills State but they want a separate entity for themselves. The reason is, when I was a Chief Minister of Assam I used to receive representations from Mizo educated youths that they could not get proper share in Government services because of the Khasi Hills people, who are most advanced. Similarly, I got complaints from Garo Hills people, that they were exploited by other hill people and this exploitation should be stopped.

CAPTAIN WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Baghmara, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): On a point of order, Sir, in my speech I never said that I represent all the hill people.

Shri BISNURAM MEDHI: The people of United North Cachar and Mikir Hills do not want to join with the other hill leaders of Khasi and Jaintia and Garo Hills for a separate hill State. I have placed some population figures for consideration of the hon. Members of the House for their consideration and want to analyse the figures. The total population of the United Mikir and North-Cachar Hills is 2,79,000 and that of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills is 7,69,380 of which more than 2,03,668 are non-tribals including the scheduled caste. It appears that about 5 lakhs of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills want a Hill State. This number is less than even one fourth of the total population of 20,64,316 of the scheduled tribes of the plains and hills, as indicated in the census figures of 1961.

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: We have not included in our scheme Plains Tribals.

Shri BISNURAM MEDHI: The interest of the plains tribal population as well as that of the hills is governed by Article 46 of the Constitution. I do not like to go into the details of it. This is meant for the promotion and protection of the interests of tribals of both hills and

plains. Every one of the hon. Members of this House, who is leader of public opinion, should see that the interest of the scheduled tribes of the hills as well as those of the plains should receive full protection under Article 46 of the Constitution. I am quite sure that all the Members should come together and make an earnest effort and see how to promote the welfare of the scheduled tribes of the hills and plains and protect them from exploitation as envisaged in the Constitution. To be precise and save time, I crave the indulgence of the House to make a statement giving the circumstances and the background for consideration of the hon. Members in considering the proposed reorganisation scheme. I hope they will keep an open mind and dispassionately consider my submission.

It is known to you, Sir, and the hon. Members of this House that China, even after vacating the aggression of our sacred soil and unilaterally withdrawing her Military forces, have been continuously making massive military preparation all along the Macmohon line, threatening our independence and our democratic way of life and entered into an unholy alliance with Pakistan and supplied arms and Military equipments to them with an evil and inimical design against India and is now waiting only for an opportunity to launch a combined attack on this strategic North East Frontier of India.

In this background of military preparedness and Pakistan sending infiltrators and trained and well-equipped Naga hostiles and Mizo rebels under a plan for subversive activities like the explosions of passenger trains at Lumding and Diphu, with the help of powerful foreign-made plastic time-bombs on 21st April and 23rd April 1966, involving loss of life and injuries to many passengers and the recent explosion of railway tracks on 18th February and 1st of March, 1967, as stated in the Governor's Address, it poses a threat to Assam's integrity and security and clearly indicates that the State of Assam is passing through an explosive situation and is almost sitting at the top of crater of a volcano about to erupt. The fact that the Central Government has allotted Rs.967 crores for Defence budget in spite of economic difficulties facing the country will also indicate the danger we are facing. Considering the military preparedness of China with unholy alliance with Pakistan and the international design, has been stated by my friend, Shri Debeswar Sarmah, besides hostile actions of some misguided hostile Naga people and Mizo rebels under planned sabotage activities, like the activities of exploding trains in Lumding and Diphu, not simple bombs but plastic time-bombs used by them, it indicates the danger we are facing. These people have received training on guerilla warfare in foreign land. We are thus passing through an explosive situation. At such a juncture it is the duty of every citizen and all political parties to unite to save the situation which may ultimately jeopardise the very security and integrity of this State.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Who are these Hajongs ?

Shri BISNURAM MEDHI: Captain Sangma is aware that there are large number of Hajongs all along the borders of the Garo Hills. I am talking Hajongs of Pakistan.

(Interruption)

Hajongs are there. According to the design of the unfriendly foreign missionaries, these Hajongs and Ansars are trained in warfare and they are well armed.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Whether these Hajongs are Hindus or they are Muslims?

Shri BISNURAM MEDHI: Majority of them are tribals (Hindus). There may be some converted to Christianity.

My point is: if they rush to take the valuable natural and mineral resources of Garo Hills and invade our country, it will not be possible to defend our country. Unless all of us combine together and unless the entire population of the entire country join together, it will not be possible to resist them. For example, when there is flood, all sections of people combine together, just like ants for safety. When flood comes, the ants for the sake of safety and security, lump together and unite together to float.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Sir, so far my knowledge goes, none of these Hajongs is Christian.

(A Voice—Hajongs are tribals)

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Barbhog): Sir, Hajongs are mostly Hindus. There may be some converts. That is a different thing.

Shri BISNURAM MEDHI: But, my whole idea is about foreign design. Some foreign missionaries open welfare centres, attract people, guide or misguide them to work against the interest of India. What they have done in Nagaland? So, I appeal to the Central Government to see that the uncompromising demand of a group of hostile Nagas, even after the constitution of the Nagaland into a full-fledged State and being administered by the popular representatives of the Naga Hills and elected on adult franchise, appears to be the root cause of the trouble in Naga Hills. The negotiation with the hostiles over the head of the legally constituted Government of Nagaland has, on the other hand, encouraged them to continue their guerilla tactics and depredation in different parts of Assam after receiving training and arms in Pakistan, thus jeopardising our security and giving incentive to the Mizo rebels to follow their method of violence as I anticipated long ago. My advice at that time, as the Chief Minister, was not accepted on many matters and that was one of the reasons why I gave up responsibility and went away from Assam and almost after 9 years I again have entered Assam politics here, seeing the danger that is ahead of us, and placed my services at the disposal of the Government and the members of the House. I am grateful to the people of Assam and other Parties to allow me to be elected to this House without contest. That is why my informal efforts will be always directed to bring the Government and Opposition close together as we are facing danger ahead of us.

"In view of the geographical position and interdependent economy of the Hills and Plains, the welfare of the great collection of the people in varying stages of socio-economic development and speaking different languages, living in the Hills and Plains in this region forming the North East Frontier of India, will depend on their ability to live together as brothers and friends in an atmosphere of mutual understanding under one administrative set-up for quick, integrated, unhampered

socio-economic development of this region to make it self-sufficient in all essential commodities to meet any emergency."

This is very necessary. We cannot stand against our enemies, if we divide ourselves. Hostiles will find their way if we do not join hands together.

"We the people of the Plains fully appreciate the aspirations of the people of the Hills for all-round socio-economic development of the Hills and to advance according to their genius. We are anxious to provide maximum autonomy for accelerating the speed of development of the area while at the same time maintaining the integrity and unity of the State of Assam for the best interest and welfare of the Hills and Plains.

From security and defence point of view and for economic development, people living in this region will have to play very important role and work together as equal partners with a sense of dedication for building up a prosperous Assam by their joint efforts as equal partners to enable every citizen in this region to share the prosperity equitably and march together for consolidation of national unity, progress and richer life for all."

But, I cannot understand why there is some sort of misunderstanding between us. There must not be any quarrel amongst the brothers. I invite Captain Sangma who is representing the Hills people to come to the plains and see the effect of floods himself. He will find the plains which is supposed to be full of resources are not as developed as he thinks. Please come and visit these areas where nine and a half lakhs of backward tribals and other classes of people are living. They have no roads—they cannot go out from the villages. They are living in a wretched condition. A few Ministers cannot build a country unless every officer and every people feel that it is their country and they will have to work together as equal partners for the development and prosperity of the country. But that ideal or moral spirit is not there. That is, there is suspicion and doubt. It is up to the youngmen of the country to rise to the occasion and make efforts to solve the problems unitedly. Believe in God. Of course many may not believe in God. We are getting old, probably that is why we believe in God. Unless there is a moral foundation the society cannot be built up to serve all the people. Unless they come together, sit together and resolve their differences amicably, they cannot come to a correct solution of the problems conducive to the best interest and welfare of the peoples of Hills and Plains.

"The people of the Plains apprehend that there will be separation of the Hills and the Plains." I am speaking what is the view of more than one crore of plains people and 13 lakhs of tribal people living in the Hills. I appeal to you all to consider this view of the people. I do not say that you should come to a decision at once.

"The people of the Plains further apprehend that the separation of the Hills and Plains and constitution of separate units of different hills under the proposed Federal Structure of administration is likely to lower the status of Assam as "A" class State and such separation will not only hamper the integrated economic development of the area but will also retard the process of emotional integration and strengthening the bond of unity and solidarity amongst all sections of the people essential to serve as bulwark of defence. The difficulties of economic planning and execution of such plan is likely to increase in case the Hills and Plains are separated or divided specially if the background is one of suspicion which is likely to follow and accentuate in connection with

minor matters such as fixation of boundaries and division of assets and hamper the rapid economic development of both Hills and Plains to the detriment of the interest of both."

The plains people further feel that the new federal structure of administration in this region surrounded by unfriendly foreign countries in unholy alliance and upsetting the present set-up of administration instead of solving the problems of Hills and Plains and bringing the people together for the common good of every one is likely to release divisive forces of disruption, tension and suspicion beyond the control of tenuous federal structure to be a dangerous experiment not conducive to the welfare of the Hills and Plains. Such separatist forces are likely to accentuate and disintegrate the State into smaller units as now demanded by the Mizo Hills. Such experiment in Assam Hills may also rouse similar demands from all Hills areas of all the States, all along the sensitive border south of China beginning from Darjeeling to Kashmir and those States to the north, east and south of Pakistan and is likely to endanger the unity and solidarity of India, undermining the defence of this strategic State as well as of India and ultimately weaken political fabric of India. The entire India would be disintegrated if we just follow the example of Nagaland and Mizo Hills and try to separate the Hills from the Plains which is just like cutting a hand or a leg of a man. We constitute the whole Nation, the composite culture we have built here in Assam. Tribals and non-Tribals have taken the best from each other. They have also absorbed what is best in us. So there is a composite culture; the history tells like that. We used to live in amity and friendships even in peace or war, at every time, helping each other. That is how we could repel the Mogul invasion of Assam. I am quite sure Capt. Sangma and his party is patriotic enough to see that they do not fall a victim to any international design to the advantage of our enemies. Let us make an earnest effort to live together and bring together the heart of men, closer together, and try to work wholeheartedly for the good of the entire State. Separation is likely to endanger the unity and solidarity of India and ultimately weaken the political fabric of India. As I have already stated, encouragement of integrated development and emotional integration of the people of the Hills is essential in order that it may serve as a strong bul-wark of defence of North-East corner of Indian Republic. I can understand when Mr. Sangma said that you must keep them contented. That is our duty; the duty of the leaders of both the Hills and the Plains to see how we can remove the sense of frustration that is lingering in their minds that their progress is very slow. There are places even now where it takes about a month for a letter to reach. It is intolerable. They cannot feel the glow of freedom. It is the duty of the leaders. You have been leaders of this entire State for 5 years and let us work together for these 5 years and see what we can do. And that is why my efforts will always be to strive for unity.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : For the last 20 years ?

Shri BISNURAM MEDHI : There were some mistakes, I do not like to go into these. Why perpetuate on our mistakes? We should put a stop to them, and try to avoid the mistakes in our march towards a prosperous welfare State. Free and unhampered contacts on social, cultural, economic and political planes between the people of

the Plains and Hills should be encouraged to develop and all artificial administrative barriers should be removed so that the suspicion and misunderstanding that arose during the British period due to the close door policy of divide and rule adopted by them for their interest may gradually vanish and help in strengthening the bond of unity between them. Plains people feel that the process of further disintegration at this juncture should be stopped for the welfare of the Hills and the Plains as well as of India as a whole specially when the foreign countries inimically disposed towards India are knocking at our door and pose a serious threat to our Independence. The very fact that we are allotting Rs. 967 crores for the purpose of defending our country shows that emergency is at our door. At this critical period in our history, it is up to us, the representatives of the Hills and Plains and all citizens to be vigilant and alert and to sink all our difference and stand united against this menacing attitude of our unfriendly neighbours. It is in this perspective, that we may not be taken by surprise just like during the last Chinese aggression. I do feel that the proposed reorganisation of the State of Assam should be considered as above party interest and treated as a national problem of great importance. We fully appreciate the aspirations of the people of the Hills for fuller autonomy (subject to National Unity and Integrity) and are anxious to find out a solution of the problems of the Hills and Plains as quickly as possible on the basis of providing maximum autonomy to the Hill areas to develop and advance according to the genius of these people while at the same time maintaining the integrity, unity and stability of the State of Assam as desired by Prime Minister Pandit Nehru till 1964 before his departure from this land. I need not go into details because my friends Capt. Sangma and Mr. Nichols-Roy have digested this report and know every detail about it and they know what was the desire of the Prime Minister. His desire was to maintain unity of the State. From little differences, Capt. Sangma said, the Congress did not accept the recommendations of the Pataskar Commission.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : I mean reduced Plan.

Shri BISNURAM MEDHI : The only difference is by way of suggestion. There is time even now to consider how that can be made successful. The Congress said that it was only a suggestion. Consistent with the joint and collective responsibilities, the responsibility in selecting Minister from the Hills should be that of Chief Minister. A convention can be established by agreement. That convention, by mutual agreement, if it is established we can work and give a trial to it and that convention can have a statutory effect also. If the President is allowed under some provision of the Sixth Schedule to issue instrument of instructions to the Governor to follow certain conventions in the matter of selection of Ministers from hills, that can be very easily done and no amendment of the Constitution is necessary for that purpose. For a federal set-up of administration the amendment of the Constitution will be necessary. All these will cause delay and settling up of boundaries and division of properties will take away the years of the Fourth Five Year Plan. We have not been able to make any progress either in the Hills or in the Plains or control flood while the enemy is knocking at the door. Should we as intelligent leaders of this strategic State sit down helpless instead of trying to evolve a formula which can be worked with success? So, I appeal to them to give another chance, sit down with a good grace and try to find out an agreed solution. A solution which is imposed never works well.

Therefore, the best way is so try to find out an agreed solution of the problems so that the leaders of the Hills and Plains can work together for the good of the people. Sir, so far as the ordinary people are concerned, there is no difference between the Hill people and the Plain people, except the millionaires who live in the towns. What is the earning of the poor people in the Hills and Plains? There is no difference. Therefore, we have to elevate the entire country. Sir, as I cannot make my hand strong by feeding the hand and to make my hand strong I am to feed my stomach, so also we cannot make our country strong unless we improve the lot of all the people. Therefore, let us sit down and try to find out some agreed solution so that we may prosper, and we may settle our disputes. And after making our country strong, let us extend our help to outside (the bell rang).

It is upto the people of the Hills and Plains, representing different sheds of public opinion, and their representatives in this august House to rise up to the occasion and sit round a table and discuss this matter of re-organisation of the State to satisfy the aspirations of the people of the Hills dispassionately with an open mind and make an earnest effort to understand each others, difficulties and to come to an agreed solution or to evolve an agreed formula in this matter of vital importance as may be conducive to the best interest and welfare of the people of the Hills and Plains living together in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

With these words I appeal to you to consider all these aspects with an open mind and try to find out a way so that we can arrive at an agreed solution.

I hope you will excuse me for making a written speech. But I could not help it because I consider it to be a very important problem involving the future of Assam and India and the Garo people and Khasi people living in the border areas. Sir, the other day I was greatly disappointed to find that some Central Ministers declared something about the Nagas. But this sort of allurements does not help in solution of the problem and that is why this problem has not been solved. We should not commit mistake after mistake. The Central leaders should realise their mistakes and should try to rectify them. I have written a letter to them warning them against such mistake and I think they will have to consider these matters. Once a mistake is committed, that should be rectified and we should try to understand each other. But instead of correcting ourselves if we go on committing mistakes after mistakes then that will lead us to ruin.

With these few words I thank the hon. Members of this House and the hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to speak. Last time I was very ill and I did not think that I would regain sufficient strength to speak.

Lastly, I would again appeal to leaders of the Hills and Plains to consider these aspects of the problem dispassionately and they should try to put an end to this fissiparous tendency.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : Sir, as you are aware, the hon. Member Shri Medhi made certain references to myself. Therefore, I must be given a chance to give personal explanation. He made repeated reference to me giving at the same time some sort of wrong statements. Therefore, I should be given a chance to explain myself with regard to those references.

Mr. SPEAKER : Capt. Sangma, there is no provision for a reply. We shall, however, consider your point afterwards. In the meantime let the debates continue.

***Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now we have heard a very illuminating, well-thought and emotional speech from our veteran Leader of the State Shri Medhi. Sir, I come from a very remote border constituency of the State and I represent the people living in that distressed area. Sir, in the course of debate on the Governor's address about 50 or 52 hon. Members have taken part discussing too many issues. So, I would not like to repeat those and I shall only confine myself to a few instances of law and order, re-organisation of the State and infiltration, and I shall not take much of the time of the House.

Sir, the Governor in his address has stressed on the law and order situation, and in complacency characterised it as satisfactory, but unfortunately he has conveniently forgotten to make mention about a recent occurrence that has taken place in Gobindapur, about which village he mentioned with regard to firing during the time of cultivation. Sir, village Gobindapur is just on the border of Karimganj Subdivision and East Pakistan and the distance between this village and Pakistan border would not be more than 1½ furlongs. There we have got two check-posts one of which is adjacent to Gobindapur. The village Gobindapur consists of only 6 Hindu Nama-sudra families, and you will be surprised to hear that on the previous night of the General Election *i. e.*, the 20th February, 1967 the Pakistan Security Forces entered that village and kidnapped all the 25 Hindu villagers, all were voters, leaving none behind and took them and confined them in Pakistan camp for the whole day of 21st February 1967. On the 21st February night they let them off at their sweet will. On that morning of 21st February we informed the Superintendent of Police and the Subdivisional Officer of the incident. They hurried to the spot immediately and informed Shillong by wireless on that very day. But it is most surprising that this most important matter, this incident of 21st of February failed to find any mention in the Governor's address. It can easily be understood to meet whose interest the Hindu voters were kidnapped. Some hon. Members have found satisfaction with the Governor's address because of his mention about the law and order situation. But so far as we are concerned, we the people of the bordering areas, particularly of Karimganj and East Pakistan border areas feel that we are not living under any Government whatsoever, no administration worth the name is there. Sir, much has been talked about Pakistan infiltration. This infiltration is inexorably connected with the partition of India based as it is on most unreasonable and artificial considerations. What

is this partition? If Mahibuddin lives on the other side of the border of India, in Pakistan, his brother Immamuddin has to live on this side of the India border within a stone's throw distance between two houses. This is the condition in the border areas at Mahisasan and Latu. If the Government is labouring under any impression of being able to check this infiltration, I feel, Sir, they are living in fool's paradise. Unless and until some very special measures are taken, this most complicated and most serious problem cannot be solved. We who live on this side of the border of India, both Hindus and Muslims, will have to live together, we were living together, and we will continue to live together. Therefore when we talk about this most delicate and emotional problem, we must look to the matter in its proper perspective. Since this border with Pakistan has been fixed on the basis of most unrealistic considerations, most unmethodically and without basing it on any natural barrier to keep these two countries, Pakistan and India, separate from each other, how will it be possible to check the infiltration? Hon. Chief Minister in course of his statement very correctly said that we have a very vast border and therefore it is obviously not possible for any Government to check this complicated problem of infiltration unless and until the people at large come forward to help the Government in the matter not only to ensure the security of the State but also for maintaining the peace and tranquillity in the border areas and this problem needs discussion dispassionately with all parties concerned instead of creating bad blood through heated discussion in this House. But may I ask why in spite of our having such a big Border Security Force and in spite of so many assurances from Government, why even today columns of various newspapers in the country are filled with innumerable reports of hundreds of cattle being lifted away from our side to Pakistan? Are we to think that without any help from people living on this side of the border, Pakistanis come all on a sudden and lift away our cattle in hundreds day in and day out? Sir, it is the duty of our Government, our Security Forces to find out the reasons therefor. Unless that root cause is found out and sufficient steps taken to eliminate it, this colossal waste of our cattle wealth, which is, more or less, the back-bone of the agricultural society, cannot be stopped.

Sir, we have had the opportunity of hearing quite a number of illuminating speeches on the Governor's Address, but unfortunately no one else except my hon. friend Shri Sailen Medhi from our side in course of his speech on the Resolution for shifting of the capital from Shillong, made any mention whatsoever about the fate of the people living in Shillong, the capital town, during the recent disturbances. Governor's Address does not contain a line about these distressed people, as if this Government would not be any occasional breach of peace, some hooliganism here and there, but certainly we will mind it very seriously if this Government totally fail to maintain peace as and when such troubles take place and that too in this capital town of Shillong. At the same time we are grateful to our friend Mr. S. D. D. Nichols-Roy for his last minute efforts to maintain law and order here and save the humanity. He, Sir, was moving about almost like a mad man here and there in his bid to maintain peace in the town. We are very grateful for all his efforts. Sir, during those days, I am sorry to mention that this capital city was, as it were, left entirely to the mercy of the hooligans. Sir, it is most surprising to see that this Government in its wisdom has not considered it necessary to set

ap a machinery to enquire about the loss and damages sustained by these unfortunate citizens of Shillong during those days of the disturbance that occurred during the last part of February last. The Government not only failed to maintain law and order, but it even has not cared to know where and how these unfortunate victims of hooliganism should be rehabilitated, these poor Government employees and traders some how eking out their existence by a small 'pan' shop here or a small grocery shop there whose shops were looted and burnt down. Sir, I propose to submit petitions of some 32 victims of hooliganism to the Deputy Leader of the House through you for such consideration as he may think necessary. I would appeal to the House to see whether this Government has any responsibility towards these helpless people who for no fault of their own have been rendered homeless and helpless. I leave it to the Government to consider whether this Government has any responsibility towards these 32 unfortunate families. The Government may in their wisdom burn these petitions, throw them in waste paper basket or render relief.

While speaking about reorganisation of the State hon. Shri Debeswar Sarmah very rightly said that Delhi-wallas very conveniently forget about the problem of Cachar, if the State is bifurcated. Sir, we are practically living in the bed of Pakistan. We do not like to stand on the way of our Hill brethren in their aspirations to get a State of their own. It is for them to decide and it is also for the Government of India to decide about this problem. We will certainly make appeal to our Hill leaders, to our Hill friends to think about the people of Cachar. Let them get the Hill State, we have no objection, my submission is that Cachar will be completely isolated if the Hill State is created. Sir, my friend Mr. Nichols-Roy told in this very floor of the House that he does not himself favour splitting the eastern region of India to several units. So a Hill State is a certainty. If the Hill State is constituted with the North Cachar Hills what will be the position of Cachar? The people of Cachar will be left entirely at the mercy of Pakistan. The Government should think about the fate of Cachar and the State of Tripura. There is only one road communication to Tripura via Karimganj. So both Tripura and Cachar will be entirely at the mercy of Pakistan.

Recently, Sir, one division has been created comprising Mizo Hills and Cachar District with a Commissioner as the Liaison Officer. All communications have to be made to him through the Civil D. C., Cachar which takes quite a long time and after that only the correspondences can be made with the State capital. As a result of this at the time of the closing of the financial year many grants-in-aid have been held up and the Municipality will suffer a lot.

We have been separated by the creation of this division. I do not understand why this Liaison Officer is at all necessary only in the districts of Cachar and Mizo Hills. We have become a sort of evil sore of body of Assam for which we have been cut off in the December last. Sir, we would just impress upon the Government that before the re-organization of the State of Assam both the Government of Assam and India and

the Hill brethren should think for the future of Cachar and Tripura so that these two places do not suffer. Cachar should not be left out to its disadvantage.

(The bell rings)

Sir, in the Governor's Address there is mention about some inquiries to be made by Commission. Sir, it appears to us that the Commission is just investigating the wrong doings of the Government. Government is expert in killing the innocent people. The Government is keen on using fire-arms Sir, the Government have set up a Commission to go into the police firings in Silchar. The Government have spent about 3 lakhs of rupees from the exchequer of Assam.

(The bell rings again)

Sir, give me only a few minutes ; I shall finish. This is the first time I am speaking on Governor's Address. Sir, Counsel was brought from Bihar. Lakhs of rupees have been spent, but the report of the firing commission has not yet been published, although the Chief Minister of Assam told in the month of December on the floor of this House that the Mehrotra Commission's Report would be published. But today it is 1967 yet the Mehrotra Commission's Report on Silchar firing has not yet been published. The Chief Minister has kept it in the cold storage in spite of his assurances.

(Voices: Shame ! Shame !)

So there is hardly any necessity for holding any Commission of Enquiry because the Report of the same shall never be published. I would like to suggest that if the Commission is constituted no outside Lawyer should be brought because when we bring Counsel from outside lakhs of rupees shall have to be spent. Let our Lawyers and Advocates from Bar conduct the enquiry.

Here again, I want to mention only one point—that is about unemployment problem. There is already thousand of unemployed people on the street and if the Federation Scheme is materialised it will be a colossal problem. I want to ask the Government whether they have ever thought about this problems whether the Government have thought about the fate of those people who would be thrown out of employment? Both the Government of Assam and the Government of India should consider this aspect of the matter and think seriously to settle this problem. Sir, when in 1965 there was a strike in the Shillong Secretariat no less a person than the Hon'ble Chief Minister gave assurance on the floor of this House that if the strikers resumed their work there will be no victimisation. On the 15th April, 1965 the employees of the Secretariat resumed their work but contrary to the assurance given by the Chief Minister two people were victimised. They have been dismissed from service and they are one Shri Bhagaban Das and Shri Pijush Hoar. After the General Election, Sir, when the Opposition Parties in some State formed the Cabinet, they have in their wisdom withdrawn all the proceedings drawn against the employees. In the

State of Bihar this is done. In the changed situation I think such psychology should be created and the employees should be taken into confidence at this crucial juncture. I, therefore, appeal to the Chief Minister and ruling party to reconsider their decision taken about 2 years before and reinstate Shri P. Hoar and Shri Bhagaban Das in their services. If the Government is really the guardian of the people, they should not be offended with the child. Whatever offences they have made, as guardian the Government should treat them as their own children.

Lastly, Sir, I have a suggestion to make. It is very unfortunate that we are creating a very bad blood. Here in India we will have to live together. Both the Hindus and the Muslims must live together. So far my district is concerned there is no such bad feeling. We have been sent here by the people to discuss our problems and find out their solution but not to create bad blood. We have heard that there is more than one lakh infiltrators, the Government of India said about 7 lakhs 50 thousand and our Government reported that there is about one lakhs twenty-two thousand. Deportation has not been made on a large scale otherwise how there can be such a big number? So, Sir, unless we create a psychology of patriotism by the majority community, it will not be possible to tackle this problem and solve it successfully. We must make our people consider themselves as the citizens of India. They must not be allowed to feel aggrieved. We have made the business community aggrieved. So I appeal to the Government to look into this matter and try to solve the problem in right earnest.

Thank you, Sir.

***Shri BAZLUL BASIT (South Salmara):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of the motion I like to place a few points for my observations. Sir, the Governor has given us a clear idea of this State regarding the past achievement and the future activities that will have to be performed. Sir, our State is surrounded by the foreign countries from which any aggression may come. In this condition, Sir, not only the security problem but the unity and integrity and the feeling of oneness must be roused throughout the whole State very unitedly. The people of Assam must be united and must be alert in this regard. We should get ourselves separated from any personal interest, from any class interest or any community interest. Therefore, Sir, I believe we should work together for security, safety and integrity of the country. Sir, as regards infiltration many speeches have been delivered in this august House and many important opinions have also been expressed. In this regard there is no good if we cannot live unitedly, safely and with the past also. Therefore, Sir, every community must respect the feelings of the other community. Sir infiltration, i. e., illegal infiltration must be driven out from the country and there is no different opinion in this matter. No chance should be given to the outsiders who live in this country without valid order. But, Sir, in driving out the illegal foreigners we must not harass the Indian people. Sir, in my Constituency Indian persons who are living in India for years together and being river eroded have been shifted to other place, but up till now they have not been given lands for their rehabilitation and they are harassed in various ways. I also understood that some erosion affected persons were shifted to other places temporarily and they were also served notice to quit the place immediately. Very curiously, Sir, the Police have

*Speech not corrected.

served notices to the Indian citizen, also and thereby harassing the innocent persons. Therefore, I appeal to the Government as well as to the people that these sorts of harassment must be stopped. Sir, as regards development of the State, the Governor has given us an idea what is going to be done, but you see, Sir, as regards Goalpara District a great cry of people is that this District is neglected in various ways. This District is educationally backward as well as Industrially. Therefore, Sir, it is the feeling of the people that for the all round development of the District all measures should be taken first. Sir, in my District there is a big trouble, *i. e.*, the trouble of erosion; thousands of people are eroded every year in this District and are remaining without shelter, without homestead land. So, I appeal to the Government, Sir, to provide them with cultivable lands and homestead lands immediately. For long time past this is a food deficit Subdivision, so care should be taken to provide land to those river eroded persons. Sir, if all the landless and eroded persons are provided with lands and if they are given chance to work in the Industries, *i. e.*, (small and large) then they will get chance to feed their children. Sir, many hon. Members have discussed about corruption. Nobody could deny about it and it should be considered how to root out this corruption. With these few words, Sir, I support the motion moved by my friend, Shri Sarma.

(The Speaker in the Chair)

Maulavi ABDUL MUSAWWIR CHOUDHURY (Rupahihat): Sir, this is the third time I have not been allowed to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Up till now, 35 speakers have spoken and majority of them from the Opposition. More time has also been given to Opposition. I am trying my best to accommodate all the speakers, but you know also that our time is limited. A Minister has to reply. Therefore, unless you co-operate, it is difficult to accommodate all the speakers. Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya will now speak.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Barbhag): Mr. Speaker, Sir, shorn of the ceremonies, the Governor's Address has nothing to do with the person or personality of the Governor. It is the policy statement of the Government for which the Cabinet is entirely responsible. Now, the present address having come after the General Election was expected to be a momentous document of great public importance. In view particularly of the fact that legs and soles move together with the body, the present Address is entirely disappointing. It appears that it is a catalogue, and I should say, a callous catalogue, prepared by a heartless bureaucracy living at an Olympian height and without any connection with the state of affairs in the midst of the people, and the bureaucracy appears to be unwilling and incapable of appreciating the mood and the needs of the people.

Sir, the results of the Fourth General Election are there. It may be interpreted according to one's own way, but the figures show here the present party in power occupies 57 per cent of the seats in this House having polled only 43 per cent of the votes. There may be people who regret that the towering edifice which was built by Gandhiji and Nehru has toppled down in several places and even the foundation has started cracking. There may be again others who rejoice that the citadel of corruption, conservatism and hypocrisy is toppling down and a new era is dawning in India.

Sir, on your being elected as the Speaker of the House, you were pleased to say that democracy is a system of Government, where the majority rules with the consent of the minority. Sir, I go a step further and say that democracy is not only a system of Government, it is a way of life where every man must have equal opportunity of participation in every sphere of social life, where service is before self, where the country is before party and where the people live as though they are flowers in a garden where many colours bloom. Democracy is a symphony which has many strings and yet one tune.

Now, in our country, 20 years of Congress misrule has degenerated democracy into a mere form bereft of its content. For the last 20 years, Government have substituted speech for action, promise for performance. People have expressed their anger against this state of affairs. But it will be wrong to think that the people have rejected the Congress altogether. The replacement of Congress rule by a Government of democratic unity was possible ; but we also have failed like Congress to read the writings on the wall ; we also could not properly appreciate and evaluate the depth of people's resentment against the Congress and could not pose an alternative which only a democratic united front could have done. We must, therefore, realise that the results of the General Election are not only a serious warning to the Congress, it ought to be an eye opener to the Opposition as well. We must take the lessons with humility as well as firmness. The corrupt administration and its henchmen will try to disrupt our efforts for a broad-based democratic unity. They will try to blunt the sharpness of our attack against their misdeeds and corruptions by patronisingly sermonising us to be constructive towards them. We must remember that there can be no compromise with sin. We must remember that people have sent us here not to be apologists of the Congress Government, but to wage relentless battles against Congress misrule. We shall have to function here as watchdogs of the best interests of the people.

We must, at the same time, remember that we are living not in a static, but in a dynamic world. Serious heart-searchings are not unlikely in the Congress ranks. There may be change in the correlation of forces. We may be called upon to share and shoulder responsibility in no distant future. We must, therefore, be armed with a clear, concrete and time-bound programme of action which we shall be able to carry out if we are called upon to take the responsibility. This programme also cannot be static and inelastic. It must be there before the public for criticism, improvement and enrichment.

We shall fight for sweeping land reforms including abolition of the system of land revenue and proper implementation of Chapter X of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation so as to give real protection to the weaker sections of the peasantry. Sir, peasantry is the back-bone of the nation. It shall have to be completely freed from all shades and forms of feudal exploitation. Improvement of agriculture is the best job today. The agriculturist should be enabled to stand on his own legs. He should have land, water, manure, seeds and plough-cattle and also working capital and a decent standard of life. Irrigation, drainage and flood control shall have to be given top-priority.

Balance in agricultural and industrial prices shall have to be effected.

In the sphere of education and culture, there shall be—

(a) complete equality and uniformity in primary education, The two types of primary education one, for the children of the richer section, which is most upto-date and sophisticated method and the other for students of the poor section, which is called basic education but which really is only a "*Pasi-Kharahi*" type of institution must go throughout the entire State and (b) there must be completely free education upto the end of the Secondary stage, (c) free collegiate education for children of parents with a monthly income upto Rs. 250.00 and (d) help to the Film Industry, establishment of National Theatre and Film Studio and utilisation of the different cultural patterns of the land for national integration which shall have to be provided for; otherwise in spite of emotional lectures there will not come national integration.

There must be free medical service to all citizens with particular attention to preventive medicine being arranged for, as it is known that prevention is better than cure.

We shall have to develop an agro-industrial economy with workers' and consumers' participation in the management and provision for full employment. All the available arable surplus land is to be settled with landless actual tillers, irrespective of caste, creed, language and religion and without premium and by immediate issue of periodic patta to the settlement holders.

Social security must be guaranteed to all citizens irrespective of religion, language, caste, creed or race. While foreign nationals, who are in the State without authority are to be deported and our frontiers firmly guarded, no Indian national must be deported or harassed under any plea or pretext. All repressive legislations are to be scrapped. The system of Police verification for land settlement, as has been stated by one hon. Member from Barpeta should be abolished. Police verification of persons applying for Government jobs must be done away with.

Rail, road and waterways transports and communications are to be improved and developed further to the advantage of all the areas of Assam.

Irrigation and drainage measures shall have to be taken up scientifically and systematically. Speedy and adequate rehabilitation of the flood and erosion affected and other displaced persons shall have to be there so that no man-power is wasted. Speedy rural electrification programmes and power water-supply and water-drainage arrangements shall have to be made for modernising agriculture and make it remunerative.

To carry out even this bare minimum programme, however, a clean administration is indispensable.

Corruption, nepotism, favouritism, red-tapism and inefficiency shall have to be removed from the administration. Those at the top should be dedicated souls inspired by the spirit of service. We all know how a small band of dedicated patriots of the Servants of India Society could make a great impact on the social life of India. We all know how the examples

and precepts, and the examples rather than the precepts, of Gandhiji had set the tone of the National Liberation Movement and helped in creating such a towering edifice, which his unworthy successors *cum* saboteurs have not been able to demolish completely up till now. A clean and efficient administration, willing and able to serve the common irrespective of caste, creed, religion, language, race, etc., is a must for carrying out and fulfilling the democratic programme, and on this very important programme we envisage a new Assam, an Assam which will in fact be of the people, by the people and for the people, which will be in all spheres, prosperous, progressive, social, secular and which will be a unity in diversity, which on a higher philosophical plane is called unity in contradictions.

It is in this perspective that we have to approach the question of the proposed reorganisation of the State of Assam. We are making earnest endeavours to understand the question in all its aspects so that we will be able to make our humble contribution to a lasting solution. The question is neither settled nor scaled. With your permission, I would like to make a little loud thinking and that too in my purely individual capacity.

We should approach the question historically and realistically. Cheap sentimentalism will do more harm than good. We must guard against "big-nation chauvinism" as well as "small-nation sectarianism"; because it is only a variety of the National Question, which is a burning and yet unsolved problem throughout the entire capitalist world. Captain Williamson Sangma was quite correct when he said, "We are convinced that no amount of tentalisation of various problems which are being faced by the Hills people will be solved in the hand of the present Government". As a matter of fact, it is only in a socialist society that the national question and the various problems arising therefrom can be finally and happily solved. But we cannot allow the problem to drift and become extremely complicated till socialism is achieved.

The problem was there also at the time of the Constituent Assembly. The contradictory trends of integration and separation were there. During the British Imperialist regime, most part of the hills were kept segregated behind the notorious "inner lines". The imperialists did not allow communication between the peoples of the plains and the hills or even between the peoples of the Hills themselves. Up till 1947 there was little direct impact of the National Liberation struggles in the Hills. The pattern of civilisation, culture and outlook sought to be nourished and developed in most of the hill regions of Assam was different from that of the plains. On the transfer of power and division of India, imperialist agencies did everything in their power to generate and rouse militant separatism. It is a well-known fact that the imperialists and their agents have always been displaying a "keen interest" in the bordering areas of Assam. As early as 1948-49, Mr. Mills an internationally known expert on the Tribes of Assam and an I.C.S. of the steel-frame laid stress on the importance of this strategic area as an insulator against the advent of new ideas.

The Sub-Committee of the Constituent Assembly consisting of Rev. Nichols-Roy, Rupnath Brahma, Thakkar Bapa and Gopinath Bardoloi on the strength of their report dated July 1947 got introduced the Sixth Schedule in the Constitution of India. The Constituent Assembly hoped that that the Sixth Schedule would work smoothly. But it met with rough weather

from the very beginning. Shri Bishnuram Medhi and Rev. Nichols-Roy quarreled and Rev. Nichols-Roy found himself outside the Government. The seeds of discontent by now became plants of disruption and the demand for separation became vocal.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Hajo): Sir, I want to explain. There was no quarrel between myself and Rev. Nichols-Roy.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Let us say there was a dialogue, there was difference of opinion, very serious difference of opinion between Shri Bishnuram Medhi and Rev. Nichols-Roy so much so that Rev. Nichols-Roy could not remain in the Cabinet and had to go out and join hands with us.

It will be noted that in the Constitution of India there was no political status for the NEFA while it was conceded to be a part of Assam at least geographically. At that time Shri Bishnuram Medhi was directing a hard line and at that time it was stated on the floor of this House that a pair of castrated bulls cannot succeed where the British lion failed. Manipur and Tripura were centrally administered areas. The idea was that by the good will of all concerned, and particularly the statesmanship of the leaders of Assam Congress, this entire region east of East Pakistan would be integrated. But the bus was missed and missed long long ago even before Mr. Chaliha had come to power. Big national chauvinism and small nation sectarianism had its field day.

Then came the States Reorganisation Commission in 1955. Demand for separate Hill State was raised again. Of course, Nagaland people boycotted the S.R.C. altogether and the extremists among them rose in arms for an independent State.

The States Reorganisation Commission came to the finding that "Generally speaking, the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills and the Mizo (Lushai) Hills are not in favour of a separate Hill State, and that the agitation in favour of the Hill State is confined virtually to the Garo and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills". Again I quote: "Even in these two districts an influential section of opinion views with disfavour the formation of a separate Hill State". So the S.R.C. concluded, "Taking all these factors into consideration, we have come to the conclusion that the formation of a Hill State in this region is neither feasible nor in the interest of the tribal people themselves". I am referring to paragraphs 696 and 697 page 188 of the S. R. C. Report. The S. R. C. emphasised that some measures should be taken to facilitate the formation and implementation of schemes for the development of these areas. Though the suggestion was mild, it was very significant. But the Government failed to implement it so much so that even Mr. Tarlok Singh, a member of the Planning Commission, as reported by Mr. Sangma, had to say that so far as development in the Hills areas is concerned, even the surface has not been scratched.

Things did not remain static. The so-called Naga-rebellion won its first round of victory. Shri Bishnuram Medhi was made a scape goat. He was kicked up from the Chief Ministership of Assam to the Governorship of Madras. The illustrious team of five Stalwarts—Messrs Chaliha, Ali Ahmed, Dev Kant Borooah, Deveswar Sarma and Tripathi came down from New Delhi to save Assam and to clean the "Aegian stable" as Mr. Debeswar Sarmah said at that time. The "Aegian stable" was cleaned. Nagaland State was conceded. But the basic problems in other

Hills were allowed to drift. Mr. Chaliha began to function more as a diplomat than as a statesman. He started and specialised in the policy of appeasement of the so-called leaders rather than going to and winning over the masses of the people. His critics began to say that this appeasement policy amounted to political bribery and corruption making many swell-headed self-styled leaders all the more swell-headed. But Mr. Chaliha would not listen. I made myself unpopular among some ladies and gentlemen by saying on the floor of this House that the bond of unity which had brought the gallant band headed by Mr. Chaliha together was their unprincipled hatred against the Medhi Government and the thread of unity which was keeping them together was their greed for power. What the peoples of the Plains and the Hills wanted was not so much the change of personnel, but the reversal of the policy pursued by the Congress Government which was detrimental to the peoples of the Hills and Plains alike. There is absolutely no conflict of interest between the peoples of the Plains and the Hills. It is the ruling cliques which have created the cleavage.

The separatist movement which was biding for an opportunity was given a good handle by the language riots of 1960 which depicted the Assamese people as savage chauvinists out to subjugate the Hills people and other linguistic minorities. The movement for separate Hills State gathered momentum in the Garo Hills and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

Jawaharlal Nehru brought forward the slogan of Scottish Pattern for the Hills areas of Assam. But it was an undefined and vague slogan. So, the Government of India appointed on 16th March, 1965 the Commission on the Hills areas of Assam, popularly known as the Pataskar Commission, to recommend a detailed scheme for reorganising the administrative set up of the Hill areas. I repeat "A detailed scheme for reorganising the administrative set up of the Hill areas" with a view to giving a full measure of autonomy to these areas subject to the preservation of the unity of Assam, the continuance of a common legislature in the whole State and the maintenance of the Cabinet Government of the accepted form functioning on the basis of collective and joint responsibility to the State Assembly.

The Commission *inter-alia* suggested that for protecting the non-Tribal minorities, the State Government should have the right to extend the Town Planning Act to Shillong and the adjoining areas within a growing radius of 10 miles and the town of Shillong should be completely excluded from the jurisdiction of the District Council.

For reasons best known to the Congress Government, the Pataskar Commission's recommendations were not implemented. Mr. Sangma presumes that the Commission in its recommendations reduced the Nehru Plan at the instance of the Government of Assam.

Mr. Chaliha, instead of going ahead with the recommendations of the Pataskar Commission preferred to accompany Indira Gandhi to the Nongthymmai maidan by the end of December, 1966. It was probably in the conclave of Nongthymmai that the egg of federal structure was laid which was later on hatched at New Delhi.

For three days there were discussions between Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Home Minister Shri Y. B. Chavan on the one hand and the representatives of the All Parties Hill Leaders' Conference on the other. It is reported that Chief Minister Chaliha explained to the Union Home Minister the views of the State Government and also placed before him the opinion of the Provincial Congress Committee. Although, the President of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee Mr. Sarat Sinha went along with Mr. Chaliha to the Capital, he was not present at the talks.

Be that as it may, on the 13th January, 1967 the Home Ministry issued a statement which has 3 paragraphs and it was not 2. In the first paragraph, the Government of India appreciating the political aspirations of the people of the hill areas of Assam have decided, I repeat, have decided to reorganise the State of Assam.

In the 2nd paragraph, federating units (mind, not necessarily State) having equal status not subordinate to one another should provide the basis for this reorganisation. Only limited number of essential subjects of common interest would be assigned to the regional federation. All the rest of the State functions would be left to the federating units which will have their own Legislatures and Cabinets, etc.

In the 3rd paragraph it is said that the details of the scheme would be worked out within 6 months by a Committee where there would be representatives of concerned interests. At a later stage, other administrative units in the eastern region may also join the regional federation if they so please—Am I correct? I am subject to correction if I make a mistake?

According to the All Parties Hill Leaders' Conference Leaders, the Home Ministry made it clear that the entire Hill areas of Assam covering the Hill Districts of Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Garo Hills, North Cachar Hills, Mikir Hills and Mizo Hills would form one federating unit. Mr. Chaliha neither confirmed nor denied it. He preferred to follow the maxim of "silence is golden" and was rewarded with lavish compliments by the Home Ministry sources that Mr. Chaliha displayed a statesmanlike approach to an issue that had been a source of conflict.

The All Parties Hill Leaders' Conference circles were jubilant that they got all the powers *minus* all the responsibilities. The All Parties Hill Leaders' Conference leaders got the reception at Borjhar on their return from New Delhi as Julius Caesar would get on his return to Rome after his conquests abroad. It appeared now that it was only a matter of course that the All Parties Hill Leaders' Conference leaders would have an easy walk over in the General Election in all the Hill Districts. But miracle did not happen. While there was a clean sweep in their favour in the Garo and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, they were equally cleanly and convincingly rejected in the Mikir and North Cachar Hills. They did not put up any candidate in the Mizo Hills.

There was utter confusion and dismay in the Plains Districts. Shri Bishnu Ram Medhi reacted against the Federal Plan—I should say immediately after the recommendation. Shri Debeswar Sarmah advised the people to wait and see. Slowly but steadily the students and youths

of Assam rose against the plan and a section of them at one time backed by the Assam Sahitya Sabha gave a call to boycott the Elections on this issue.

On 31st January, 1967 Shri Chaliha through a special messenger sent to the All Assam Students Union his cryptic and evasive reply that reorganisation must not lower the status of Assam. He did not clarify as to which Assam he meant—the Hills Assam, the Plains Assam or the new born freak of a Federation which the All Parties Hill Leaders' Conference leaders characterised as a super Zonal Council to handle the common Zonal problems on a zonal basis after the creation of a Hills State.

On the eve of the State-wide Hartal on 10th February, 1967, Shrimati Indira Gandhi gave another evasive statement to the effect that the plan was yet to be finalised. She, however, did not say whether the Government decision dated 13th January was rescinded or revised. However, the All Parties Hill Leaders' Conference leaders criticised this statement as a tight-rope dance.

Mr. Williamson Sangma has said in this House categorically that there are only two alternatives left to us. Either we accept the Federal Plan of bifurcation of Assam into two distinct units with some sort of a super-zonal statutory authority with equal representation from both the federating units for a very limited number of common subjects or a separate Hill State clean-cut. The All Parties Hill Leaders' Conference does not recognise separate existence of Mikir Hills, North Cachar Hills, and Mizo Hills as political entities and they think that they are in good company of Mr. Chavan and Mrs. Gandhi. To use Mr. Sangma's own words, "As far as I have come to understand, Government of India will never agree for small units, or small States which may mean Tribal States one for Khasis, one for Garos, one for Mizos and one for Mikirs in which case there will be no end of it".

I stand for self-determination of all nationalities and national groups according to patterns appropriate to the stages of their development. According to me, the leaders of the Plains Districts have no right to dictate terms to the Hills. But on the very same principle, the leaders of the Garo and Khasi Hills have no divine right to decide the fate of Mikir, North Cachar and Mizo Hills. Nobody, in fairness, can follow a policy of 'head I win, tail you lose'. Whether someone likes it or not Mikir, North Cachar and Mizo Hills have their distinct existence and they cannot be denied their appropriate political status in spite of their comparative weakness or backwardness or a State or turmoil.

Let me be clear and specific. I am as yet opposed to the federal plan for reasons which I consider to be valid.

Firstly, federation is a thing which grows from below and is not imposed from above.

Secondly, the present plan is an undemocratic imposition from above. People's opinion was not consulted, far less respected. It was, so to say, a bolt from the blue. Far from uniting the people of the Plains and the Hills, which every patriot worth the salt, stands for, this super imposed Federal Plan has raised strong resentment in the plains districts and the Mikir and North Cachar Hills so far as I have been able to read.

Thirdly, the form and substance of the Plan as can be seen up till now appears to be a big bluff designed to avert a threat of Direct Action (underline the word 'Direct Action') on the eve of the General Election rather than to do justice to all concerned. Mr. Sangma may not agree with me at this moment; but he will have a bitter experience and later agree with me.

Fourthly, there are other implications of all India significance. Will the Government of India be ready to concede to the demand for formation of such zonal intermediary federations if raised for any other part of the country? And that slogan has already been raised in the South.

Fifthly, where is the end of it? Will the same path be taken in other States where there are tribal areas distinct ethnically and geographically? Is this the problem only of Assam? Have we altogether forgotten Bastar and the Darjeeling Hill Tribes and so on?

Sixthly, the Federation if it comes, faces the danger of being the hot-bed of conflict and controversy rather than a vehicle of understanding.

Seventhly, the rulers in the Federating Units, whether you call it Hill State or Plain State, both in the Plains and the Hills will find the Federation a handy weapon to avoid responsibility to the people. For their omissions they will point out to the intransigent funny Federation and will try to go scot-free while the people groan under their misrule. And misrule there is bound to be so long as the capatelist exploitation continues.

Last but not the least, what will be the fate of Cachar?

As for me, instead of dilly-dallying with the basic problem, namely, the question of creation of a Hill State, we should face it with a positive approach (underline 'positive approach'). Only, thereafter, there may arise the question of voluntary agreement of the participating States in common and mutual interest. The present Federal Plan is not only premature, it is putting the cart before the horse. For the time being, I am prepared even to give "au revoir" to my good friend Mr. Sangma. Not good-bye but "au revoir". For the time being, let us part to meet again very soon, if parting cannot be avoided.

Let me finish with a warning to the Government. Let not the drama of Nagaland be restaged; let not the rebellion of the Mizoram be repeated. Mizoram which is an integral part of Assam has remained practically a closed chapter to us. Even Mr. Chaliha's statement did not give us much of a light. While it is clearly desirable to prevent in the Mizo Hills repetition of the long-drawn out troubles of Nagaland, the "operation security" which the Governor in his wisdom has called a 'scheme for resettlement of villages' reminds one of the campaign in Malaya and the "Agrovilles" in South Vietnam. It seems unbelievable that India has in the Mizo Hills anything like the problems which the British imperialists faced in Malaya or the American invaders still have on their hands in Vietnam. We hope, the Government will appreciate that grafting a large number of population on unfamiliar lands is a very grave and disturbing process. Let us remember that history is merciless. It is no respecter of persons or personality.

Thank you, Sir.

***Shri SONESWAR BORA (Golaghat):** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় বাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণ শুনিলো আৰু কিছুমান অতি প্ৰয়োজনীয় বিষয়ৰ উল্লেখ নাপাই হতাশ হৈছে।

বিশেষ এই যে, গোলাঘাট বজাৰ জুই লগাৰ পিচত পুনৰ নিৰ্মাণ এতিয়ালৈকে হোৱা নাই। অথচ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই তিনি মাহৰ ভিতৰত এই বজাৰখন পুনৰ নিৰ্মাণৰ আশ্বাস দিছিল। কিন্তু আজি পাচ মাহেও নিৰ্মাণ নহ'ল।

তাৰ পিচত দেখা গৈছে যে, বাজ্যখনৰ প্ৰধান ৰেল পথটোত নিৰাপত্তা নোহোৱা হৈছে। যোৱা ১৮ মাৰ্চ তাৰিখে যি বিস্ফোৰণ দুৰ্ঘটনা হৈ গৈছে তাৰ ফলত লামডিদৰ সিপাৰৰ উজনি অসমৰ লগত ভাৰতৰ যোগাযোগ বন্ধ হৈ আছিল। এইদৰেই মাজে মাজে হৈ আহিছে। তাৰ ফলত এইটো পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে যে, চৰকাৰে নিৰাপত্তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা ঠিকমতে ল'ব পৰা নাই। এই অৱস্থা আৰু এই পৰিবেশৰ মাজত—যাতে ৰাইজ আৰু বেচি দিন থাকিব নালাগে তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে বিশেষ ব্যৱস্থা ল'ব লাগে। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মই কওঁ যে, জখলাবন্ধাৰ পৰা বাদুলীপাৰালৈ যিটো বিকল্প ৰেলপথ হোৱাৰ কথা আছিল—সেইটোৰ কাম অবিলম্বে হাতত ল'ব লাগে।

তাৰ পিচত, আজি আমাৰ প্ৰধান সমস্যা হৈছে খাদ্য সমস্যা। এই খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ সমাধান কৰিবলৈ খেতিয়ক সকলক সকলো প্ৰকাৰে সহায় কৰিব লাগে। এই মন্ত্ৰে মোৰ পৰামৰ্শ এই যে—

(১) তৎকালীন ব্যৱস্থা,

(২) দীৰ্ঘকালীন ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে ল'ব লাগে। তৎকালীন ব্যৱস্থা হিচাবে খেতিয়কক টকা, পয়চা, কঠিয়া আদিৰ যোগান ধৰিব লাগে; খেতিৰ গৰু-মহ কিনাৰ সা-সুবিধা পাব লাগে। দীৰ্ঘকালীন ব্যৱস্থা হিচাবে—বিজ্ঞান সন্মত সা-সজুলীৰ যোগান ধৰিব লাগে আৰু এই মন্ত্ৰে খেতিৰ অধিক মাটি খেতিয়কক দিব লাগে। খেতিৰ মাটিৰ কাৰণে খেতিয়কসকলে চৰকাৰলৈ যিবিলাক আবেদন কৰিছে, তাৰ কোনো উত্তৰ নাই। নগা পাহাৰৰ কাষলৈকে যিবিলাক খেতিৰ উপযোগী মাটি আছে—সেইবিলাক নগা ৰাজ্যৰ চৰকাৰে বহুতো মানুহক আধি আৰু খণ্ডুৱা খাবলৈ দিছে। তৰাণি, গমাৰি, চুচিঘাট, টেঙানি আদি ঠাইত খেতি কৰিব পাৰি।

(সময়ৰ সংকেত)

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যদি এটা ভূমি সেনা গঠন কৰা যায় তেন্তে আমি এটা হিচাব কৰি পাইছো যে অসমৰ খেতিয়কৰ প্ৰায় ৪০ হেজাৰ ডেকা-গাভৰু আগবাঢ়ি আহিব। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা চৰকাৰৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা বহুদূৰ উপশম হ'ব।

মহোদয়, মই যিহেতু আমাৰ খেতিয়কৰে এজন, মই কওঁ যে আমাৰ খেতিয়কসকলে শস্যৰ ভৰালক সন্মান কৰে। যি কোনো সময়তে চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰীসকলে ভৰালত উঠাটো খেতিয়কে অকনো ভাল নেপায়। ফলত খেতিয়ক আৰু চৰকাৰৰ মাজৰ সম্প্ৰীতি নষ্ট হৈছে। এই সম্প্ৰীতি ৰক্ষা কৰা দৰকাৰ। ইয়াৰ আন কাৰণ হ'ল ধানৰ মূল্য নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰাত অলপ বেমেজালী হৈছে। আমি দেখিছো বৰ্তমানে ধানৰ মূল্যৰ কাৰণে খেতিয়কৰ মাজত বেমেজালি হৈছে। এইটো ষটিছে কাৰণ এমোন ধানত কিমান চাউল ওলাই সেইটোও চৰকাৰৰ কোনো অভিজ্ঞতা নাই সেই কাৰণে হৈছে। মই মোৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ

পৰা কওঁ যে তিনি যোন ভাল ধানত দুমোন চাউল হয়। সেই হিচাবে মূল্য নিৰূপণ কৰিলে কাৰো অন্যায্য নহয়। মই চৰকাৰক এই বিষয়ে চিন্তা কৰি সেই বকমে দাম বান্ধিলে বৰ্তমান যিটো অসামঞ্জস্যতা হৈছে সেইটো দূৰ হব।

Maulana ABDUL MOSAWWIR CHOUDHURY (Rupahihat):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose the motion of thanks on the Governor's address moved by Shri Biswadev Sarma and support the amendment made by the hon. Member from this side. Sir, since the attainment of independence of India the Muslim minority formed part and parcel of Indian Union. They all became loyal and true citizens of this country and rallied behind the Indian National Congress and did utmost labour for the unified progress and prosperity and glory of this country. Along with the passage of time they merged themselves with the main streams of Indian nation for all-round progress—economic, social and political. Many of them even sacrificed their lives for the cause of this country.

The Muslim minority settled in the various districts of Assam since 60 to 100 years past when those places were full of dense forests infested with ferocious animals and mortal diseases like Kalazar etc. They reclaimed these thick forests at the cost of their lives using themselves like tractors and made the land fit for cultivation and the revenue to Assam was increased to a great extent. In this state of their lives, the loyalty of the Muslim minorities began to be suspected. They were and are disbelieved, their constitutional rights and civil rights trampled down and even their human rights are denied. They were detected and deported on the pretext of Pak infiltrators with a motivated design. They were harassed, tortured just like cats and dogs in their mother land. Sir, it is a great tragedy for the Muslim Minorities that Shri Chaliha has converted Assam into a Police State. The tradition started in 1960. After the language riot against the Bengalees, a scape-goat was to be found out; so Shri Sudhin Dutta, the then I. G. P. and a Bengalee had to be changed without bringing any charge against him. Shri Imdad Ali succeeded him. It is said that since Imdad Ali could not act a stooge, therefore, immediately Shri Chaliha created the post of an Additional I. G. P. on the ostensible ground of heavy pressure of work and promoted Shri Bhabani Barua in that capacity. Shri Bhabani Barua was entrusted with the specific task of driving out the Pakistani infiltrants, thus shattered the image of the then I. G. P. who happened to be a Muslim, as if he could not be trusted with the task. This event confirmed it further and injected a belief in the Police force that if they would show over jealousy they would be counted as best officers within a very short time. Shri Chaliha got rid of Shri Imdad Ali in the same manner *i.e.*, without bringing in any charge against him as was the case with the former I. G. P. Shri Dutta. He was sent to Gujarat and Shri Bhabani Barua became the I. G. P. Strangely enough the post of the Additional I. G. P. is now abolished when it is the turn of a Bengali minority Shri Lala B. K. Dey to be so and in-charge of the work. All these created an impression in the minds of the Police force that only to do this work by the present I. G. P. all these unfair arrangements were made. Shri Barua also at the time of taking charge issued a long statement in the Press on or about 17th July, 1964, in the Frontier Times. Like a politician with an eye to the gallery he said, "a major task entrusted to us by the

Government at the moment is to spearhead the drive in detecting and deporting the illegal Pakistani infiltrants and to protect the border from further infiltrators." (At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the chair and Mr. Deputy Speaker occupied it). Since then Police started working with such a zeal in torturing and harrasing the Muslims in Assam as if they were without brake. The Police Zulum in this matter became so great that it became increasingly difficult for the Muslims to move about. They were and are being harassed in the trains, buses, roads and fields or whenever they move from one place to another as if they had no freedom of movement in this country and virtually any man with beard or dressed like a Muslim has become suspect in his mother land. Police make raids in the villages in the midnight, bring truck-loads of Muslims to the Police Station. Even the pregnant women in advanced stage were not spared and they are coerced and forced to give their thumb impression or sign in paper as if they were willing to go to Pakistan and for ever. At this state the talk of releasing the National Register based on the census was raised by Shri F. A. Ahmed, the then Finance Minister of Assam and the then Central Home Minister Shri Nanda, and the A. P. C. C. itself. Although it was agreed by Shri Chaliha but purposely the Police administration delayed in issuing the same by creating all kinds of obstructions and the process was completed only about 2 or 3 months back after causing an inordinate delay by which time more than 2 lakhs of people had been deported or made to leave India, bulk of whom are Indian Muslims.

Sir, I would like to quote some figures here :

Upto March, 1966 number of persons sent to Pakistan after trial.	10,212
Deported by Police direct or through tribunal ..	1,30,968
Quit India notices served and people left through routes selected by them.	74,449
Total	2,15,629

Shri Chaliha may say that they are not Indian Muslims. But it is now a known fact that names of hundreds of those deportees are being found in the National Register released subsequently. No step has yet been taken to bring them back despite specific cases were brought to the notice of the Government. Shri Chaliha himself and the (at this stage the Speaker occupied the Chair and the Deputy Speaker vacated it) then Agriculture Minister, Shri Moinul Haque Choudhury. Shri Choudhury repeatedly assured such people that he had brought such cases to the notice of the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary. But the wrong had never been remedied. If Shri Chaliha says no Muslims were harassed, let him place before the House the report of the Study Team constituted of the Hon. Members of the Parliament including Shri Govinda Reddy, M.P. and Dr. Gopal Singh, M. P. They visited and examined the State entire and submitted a report after detailed study to the Prime Minister, Home Minister, and I understand, with a copy to the Chief Minister of Assam himself.

Earlier bulk of the Muslims were driven out by the Police themselves without following any procedure whatsoever. Hence Indian Muslims on the plea of Pakistani infiltrants should not be harassed and deported (bell rang).

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want only three minutes more to finish my speech.

Mr. SPEAKER : No more time.

Shri JAGANNATH SINGH (Udharband): Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : Only five minutes, please.

Shri JAGANNATH SINGH : If, Sir, I have only five minutes time to speak, I would like to sacrifice this time for the benefit of some other Member who might be able to better utilise the time given to me.

***Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY (Cherrapunjee, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall participate in this debate only in so far as my remarks will relate to the reorganisation decision of the Government of India. Much has been said in this House about this and it is not my purpose to refuse any arguments but to point out how the leaders of the rest of the State of Assam are impressed and attuned. Already my friend Captain Sangma has given the impression about the discussions of the Hill leaders with the Government of India in January. The idea of the position for a federal set-up was anticipated and we told the leaders of the Government of India that in trying to satisfy the aspiration of the Hill people you will be bound to meet the opposition from people in the Plains. We have already seen the opposition to various other plans that have been broached ever since 1954 and onwards. But the Government of India due to the peculiar geographical conditions of North-East India and particularly following the Chinese aggression of 1962 feel that this area should have some arrangements in which the various administrative units, and I use the word advisedly because the North-East India consists of some States, some Union Territories and an area which is known as the North East Frontier Agency, and therefore, the word "units". This area should have some arrangements in which these various units may be linked, one with the other—an arrangement which they have termed as Federal set-up. This is the proposal. Now it is up to the Government of Assam and the people of the plains to accept it or reject that proposal. As far as we are concerned in the A. P. H. L. C., we have welcomed the decision of the Government of India for reorganisation of the State of Assam.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I enquire whether this is bilateral decision or tripartite decision?

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY : I am not giving in. I did not interrupt the learned gentleman when he spoke, and I request him not to interrupt me during my short speech.

Sir, we have decided to welcome the decision and we took it that the demand for reorganising the State of Assam into two units, i. e.,

**Speech not corrected.*

the Hill State and the remaining State of Assam. We have also decided to sit in the proposed committee to be set up with the leaders of the Government of Assam and the Government of India to work out as to whether that federation will be feasible. It seems, Mr. Speaker, Sir from the speeches in this House and other parts of the State that even the very sitting round a conference is very repugnant. On the other hand, they have appealed to sit together and work out something. Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Government of India had suggested that we sit in a committee I for one do not see the consistency; on the one hand for appealing that this matter be solved by sitting together round a conference table and on the other hand, even refusing to sit in such a committee. However, as I said before, we are not enamoured by the idea of a federation. If the federation is not welcome, we would like a peaceful separation and in this matter there is no point in looking backward to 1953 and raising the ghost of things which have been long buried and past. I refer, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to a very able speech by one of our friends from the Crown, the other side in which the ghost of British Colony has been raised as if that has anything to do with the present move of the Hill State. Mr. Speaker, Sir, that whole idea was rejected by the people of hills in 1947. I may remind the Friends through you that the idea of a British Crown Colony or any idea of being outside India was totally rejected by the hill people under the leadership of Rev J.J.M. Nichols-Roy, my father. I may remind the various speakers who have almost implied that there is some foreign hands behind our move, that during 1947 and 1957 there was no move for separate hill state as if the separatist tendency has developed during the British days. If that has been so Mr. Speaker, Sir, certainly the hill state idea would have been generated from 1947. As correctly pointed out by my friend, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya certain things happened between 1947 and 1954 which caused the leaders of the hills to resign from Government and from the Congress Party and started along with other hill people the movement of the hill state. Therefore let us not scape-goat the past events which have been outright forgotten by the people of the hills.

Mr. Speaker Sir, review of the history is interesting but is not relevant to the present. It is not relevant because certain decision has been made and certain broad facts have been brought to our attention. We are now certainly not interested about Coupland because he has given a very fantastic scheme in Europe which may be interesting as an academic exercise. It is necessary to discuss the problems of this area and we should try to solve them. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would suggest that we should forget the past and take decision on the proposal of the Government of India in a proper spirit which has been made in trying to solve the problem with the present leadership of the hills. It is moderate in its approach because Mr. Speaker, Sir, this demand for hill state has been made after the 1962 Election and particularly if the Mizo hill situation was taken into consideration at that time, there would not have been a Mizo rebellion. Unfortunately this moderate view of the hill people was not taken into consideration. As said by Mr. Bhattacharyya let us not have any more rebellion in this part of the country. Let us try to solve the problem with the present leadership from the Centre's point of view.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, reference to religion is very unfortunately made by one of the hon. Speakers of the other side. Illogic it is that conversion into Cristianity alienated the people of the hill areas. Mr Speaker, Sir, according to him as if the Christians, of the hills have no friendship with the Christian of the rest of India. This idea is totally rejected by me. This is a secular State and any one can practise whatever religion he wants. Religion should not be something by which to judge that at a particular time, administration should be this type and in other time administration should be other type. Therefore, I think, Sir, he unfortunately referred to religion.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, Sir, appeal has been made by some friends that we should sit down in a House. But we can never come out with decision and only something thashed. Twenty years have passed as I said earlier from 1947 to 1967 when the gentlemen concerned who were at the helm of affairs and other leaders sat down together. But there is no solution. What happened is that I for one and many of my colleagues are not interested in wasting time in this sort of academic exercise. We are welcoming the idea of sitting down in a Committee if the idea of federation is not rejected. As my friend Shri Bhattacharyya has said let us not wage war, let us part peacefully. That would be better. During the last 20 years there was only bitter feeling. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want a state where if possible two areas can go together or there should be some arrangement in the shape of federal set up or any other arrangement for the two areas. This would be good for the whole Nation because in such administrative set up other states like Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland can join and work together for a strong North-Eastern India for the good of the whole of the country. It has been pointed out that this would give rise to serious problem in other parts of India. Let us take it for granted, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that this region of North-Eastern India has a special significance specially after the 1962 aggression. Therefore, for this reason alone the Government of India have realised that solution must be found out by creating two units for the people of the hills and plains and it is now for us to accept it. That is why the federal idea has come. If it is rejected at this stage we get a separate hill state. It is perfectly all right for us. It is worth considering sitting down together to see whether we can go together in the federal plan. We approached the Government of India to create two states for two areas. It is not our intention certainly to lower the status of Assam. That is what precisely we asked for-why we should not call a spade spade-two units as two states with separate establishments. But they said there are other considerations why the word Unit is used. As I already mentioned, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we for one are here with distinct understanding for another four months only. When the re-organization takes place we have been given distinct understanding that we who are elected from the hills areas would be nucleus of the new unit as we put it as State. Therefore we have not participated in many of the deliberations of the House. Further Mr. Speaker, Sir, we feel that while we prefer separation we want to be peaceful. We do not want strained relation between hills and the plains and with these words, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you.

*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have very closely followed this debate on the Governor's address. We are very thankful to the Members on the other side for repeatedly reminding us about the set-back which we suffer in our State

*Speech not corrected.

and as a Party in other parts of India. We also take their advice that we should have heard such things and I can assure them that this process started much earlier before this advice was given to us. It is true that my Party in our State as well as in the rest of India has a set back. Perhaps there are many expectations which we could not fulfil and in a democracy it is quite right that when people feel that a change is necessary, they bring this change through Ballot Box. There is record of it. I am proud of my party for its record of service. I am sure, record of services of my party all through has been exceptional. Therefore, I have no doubt that through the heart-searching criticism of the hon. Members who have advised us and also through the various criticisms offered by the hon. Members from time to time, we would be able to give a good account of ourselves in the services of the people. Sir, in this debate very crucial problems of our State have been discussed. I would like to take up at the first instance the question of food. The food position is really very alarming. Alarming in the sense that it is not only in one State of India, but as a matter of fact, in the majority of the States of India the food position to-day is very bad. Therefore, no State is in a position to extend their assistance to another State. Therefore, we are feeling very much concerned about it and we have been invited by the Prime Minister of India to have discussion on this subject, and we propose to go there and decide what should be done to face this situation. Our procurement this year, as I communicated in course of a reply yesterday, has been much below our expectation. We will be able to see how we can improve the procurement and how we can manage the food situation in our State in the current year. Sir, normally, of course, Government of India is to allot us about between 5 to 12 thousand tons of wheat a month. But after flood last year, the Government of India failing to supply us rice, they were good enough to increase the wheat quota to 30 thousand tons a month till the month of December. But because of the situation which is now prevailing in Bihar and other parts of the country this was abruptly reduced to 5 thousand tons per month. That is one reason for which the wheat supply all over the State has been very badly affected. Our requests, of course, through communications, have not succeeded in persuading the Government of India to increase our allocations. Therefore, we are feeling very much concerned about the food position. This is a matter in which we have to forget our party affiliations and we will have to find ways jointly how to face this critical situation. Sir, as regards the buffer stock scheme that engaged the attention of the Hon'ble Members, I explained yesterday that since the Pakistan and Chinese aggression because of the very frail link of our State with the rest of India which is likely to be interrupted because of floods or other reasons we have been maintaining a buffer stock. I am sorry that in this buffer stock we have been incurring some loss because of storage and other reasons. We are reviewing the whole position and we will try to make this buffer stock scheme processed so that this loss can be avoided or at least minimised. As there are more important subjects on which I am to deal with, I think on the food question after our discussion in Delhi, we will get another opportunity of discussing in this house in the Budget session of the Assembly when we can have more detailed discussion.

Sir, I would like now to go to this re-organisation proposal of the Government of India. The House is a ware of the communique issued by the Government of India on the 13th of January on this subject and the various criticisms levelled against me that, I am making cryptic statements

that I am not explaining fully, that the President of the A. P. C. C. was not consulted. On this matter, I have to say something. The Hon'ble Member, so far I remember, said that although he was in Delhi...

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I said the President was consulted, but he was not present at the time discussion between the Government of India and the Hill Leaders took place. The Home Minister of the Government of India could not have consulted the Hon'ble Minister who was not present.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): We had two or three sittings; so far I remember, he was there.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: No.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: I think so. Sir, the Hon'ble Member, the Leader of Opposition, I beg pardon, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya has made a statement on the policy of his party which I have heard with rapt attention and we have very little difference with him on most of the subjects which he has touched. But when he tells that I did not say anything on this re-organisation proposal, that I feel, Sir, all that was possible on my part, I said. What can I say, how can I say something which is in the womb, for example, as has been said in the statement—the details of which are to be worked out by a Committee. I do not know the details. About the question of Units also, I cannot say anything. I refer to one of the Press Statement which the Press Reporters took from me at the Dum Dum Air Port and it was published in the Statesman. It reads like this:

“Much Depends on Details-Chaliha”

“Mr. Bimala Prasad Chaliha, Chief Minister of Assam, said in Calcutta on Friday that the proposed set-up for Assam was based on the broad concept of an integrated administration with regional autonomy for the hill people.

In the absence of details, now being worked out in Delhi, he said it was not possible for him to offer my comments, nor give any indication of how many units there would be. The proposals were different from what had been suggested by the Pataskar Committee, whose recommendation had some inherent defects’.

Broadly speaking, Mr. Chaliha said, the idea corresponded more or less to that of an integrated administration with regional autonomy. Much would depend, however, on details. It would have a federal structure and there would be some centralised and decentralised subjects. The expenditure for such an administration would be heavy and the Union Government would have to give a subvention for the running of such an administration.

Assam, he believed, needed an integrated administration as it was very necessary to make the north-eastern region strong from the point of view of defence and other matters. But that did not satisfy the political aspiration of the hill people.

That was why regional autonomy was very necessary to satisfy them and bring about an accelerated development of Assam."

I would refer to a letter which I wrote to the Students Organisation in reply to one of their letters. I am reading out this letter with the object to explain whatever there was possible on my part to do and it was possible for me to say. I had explained it because I could not say anything more because it was not possible to say more. This letter was addressed to office-bearer of some Students Unions. The letter read as follows:—

"Dear friends,

"Your open letter dated the 21st January 1967 reached me on the evening of the 28th January 1967 at my camp at Sonari. I am glad that I could meet you at the Borjhar Airport yesterday and explain to you my views on the reorganisation proposals of our State as put forward by the Union Home Minister, to the representatives of the All Party Hill Leaders, Conference.

"I spoke to you yesterday how some of the unwarranted observation made in your letter about our Government and Party have grieved us. I would refer to the brief statements which I made in Calcutta on my way back from New Delhi immediately after our talks with the Union Home Minister. I quote below the report as published by the Statesman dated the 14th January 1967 for your information."

I have already read out this statement published in the Statesman a little while ago before the House. The remaining portion of my letter is as follows:—

"I have not thought it desirable to say more on the Union Home Minister's skeleton proposal without knowing the details. So far the details are concerned, it seemed to me that the Union Home Minister or the Government of India were not clear in their mind and the details were left to be worked out by the proposed Committee as mentioned in the statement of the Union Home Ministry, (copy enclosed). I am not in favour of giving a final verdict on the proposal until the details are known. By accepting the skeleton proposal one may commit to something which is not known with all its implications and by rejecting the proposal also we would be strengthening the advocates who favour this disintegration of the State. In my opinion we should wait for the details. The A.P.C.C. and the Government of Assam have all these years been opposing disintegration of Assam. They have pleaded for an integrated administration with regional autonomy for the North-Eastern Region. How far the present proposal would fulfil the above concept will be known only after the details have been worked out.

"In any case, whatever form the proposal finally takes shape it must have the full support of all sections of the people of Assam and they must be taken into confidence. There should be no imposition. Reorganisation must not lower the status of Assam"

I would only say to hon. Members that when some of them blame me that I may reply was not upto the point. But under the present condition, what more I could say and. I could not say what was not possible for me to say. Therefore, hon Member will appreciate that what was possible to express on my part I did say.

Now, Sir, the hon. Leader of the P. S. P. Party in the House and as a matter of fact many other friends who think in the line, "Why not Chaliha say, because others think that we are not going to accept it?" Supposing I say this it will not solve the problem.

(Shri Dulal Chandra Barua by giving hill state also.) Therefore, our ideas is that let us speak in one voice. Let us not speak on party lives, not on the line of Plains people or Hills people but in matter like this, we should forget out political barriers and sit together and find out a solution which will be acceptable to all of us. If anybody say why not speak like this or like that I would say I would not speak like this or like that but I want that we should speak in one voice. I spoke to the Hill Leaders that so far as our problems are concerned we have to find a solution, but if you leave the problem to be solved by Government of India or somebody else it may not satisfy all of us. Our geographical situation is such that we are bound to live together. Therefore, we will have to find out solution ourselves. Therefore, I am glad that this very important subject was discussed to a considerable extent in this Session of the House. I hope, that the House will avail a further opportunity of discussing this matter on the subject and in the mean time we should try to have full discussion formally or informally amongst ourselves and to try to find out a solution.

Now, I would like to come to the problem of infiltration, but our hon. Members are aware that India and the present Pakistani were one country at one time. After the creation of Pakistan a large number of people used to come and go to this State from West Bengal either as agricultural labourer or for other purposes and that was the type of economy in those days. When the country was partitioned in 1947 there was no restriction on movement. I remember that I said in this House before that our hon. late Gopinath Bordoloi, who was the Prime Minister of Assam, approached the Government of India regarding this unrestricted movement. Government of India reaction was that this restriction if imposed there would be reciprocal action in Pakistan, which would be to the disadvantage to the minorities living in Pakistan.

Therefore, until 14th and 15th October, 1952, there was absolutely no restriction of movement between the people of East Pakistan and Assam in the other States as well. It was only on 14th October, 1952, the passport and visa system were introduced between these two countries. Even then instructions were very clear that this should be only a token introduction. It should almost remain open, this is only a token introduction. Then again it was only in January, 1957, the Foreigner's Act was made applicable against Pakistani citizens, and as a matter of fact it was only when the Foreigners' Act was made applicable against the Pakistani citizens, the Government was armed to take action against infiltrants. Sir, the problem of infiltration is a reality. Whatever may be the reason, whether it is economic or political, the infiltration problem is a reality. Therefore, what is the size of the problem? It was not known until 1961 Census was over and the Registrar General of Census made an appreciation of this subject. The Registrar General of Census by his appreciation has discovered that in Assam there are about 2,20,000 illegal infiltrants. The hon. Members would remember that so far the size of the problem is concerned, there were various estimates. For example, one of our revered leaders Shri Debeshwar Sarmah thought that this was much more than what the Registrar General has found. There are some organisations who put the figures very high.

Nevertheless, we had to tackle this problem and because this is a problem which no country would ignore, If there is a problem of infiltration in any other country, certainly they would tackle it. No matter to what religion they belong to. Therefore, we have to tackle this problem.

Md. MATLEBUDDIN (Mangaldoi) : Sir, on a point of order, whether by foreigners only the Muslims are meant.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIA, : I will explain to the hon. Member. Here the determination of a Pakistani national in the context or background of Assam or in the background of united India in the past was a complicated questions who are the foriegners or Pakistani national or infilrants ? These are determined according to the Constitution of India and the Citizenship Act of India. Sir, many of the hon. Members say that I have seen so and so many years, how can he be a Pakistani national? More seeing him for so many years is not enough. If the man who has been seen for many years holds a Pakistani passport and is living here and is overstaying, his stay in India is illegal. There are many cases in which people from this side went to the other side and took a Pakistani passport. If the person has accepted a Pakistani passport, he is a Pakistani citizen. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as to who is the Pakistani national, we consulted the appropriate authorities on the subject and they have given very clear instructions about them to us and we have got it vetted by the Home Ministry of the Government of India. This is a long thing. As the time is short, I would prefer, if you so desire, to lay this on the table of the House. These are the instructions which have been issued to the Police and they are supposed to.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Chief Minister, it will be better if you give the salient points on the snbject so that we can keep pace with the time.

Shri JALALUDDIN AHMED (Baghbar) : Pakistani National বোলাবলৈ যিবিলাক ঘাই কথা সেই বিলাক কলেই হব ।

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : এইটো একেবাৰে সহজ কথা নহয় যে মই কিবা এটা কলেই হব । ইয়াত জটিলতা আছে ।

Shri SHAHADAT ALI JOTDER (Goalpara-West) : আনি বহুতে এইটো বেজানো । ইয়াক অসমীয়াত ভাঙি দিলে ভাল হয় ।

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : About that also we had consultations, but we are not advised to publish it. We can advise our officers. So far as the public are concerned I am not clear, they are supposed to know it from the Constitution and the Citizenship Act. Because this interpretation of the Constituion or the Citizenship Act although is authoritative, so far we are concerned, I am not certain how far the Court would accept it. That is a matter to be decided. Therefore, we are not advised to publish it. In any case this is a very complicated affair. I would prefer to lay this on the table of the House. What I am trying to say is this that merely a person has been seen for so many years in a particular area or he is my friend is not a conclusive proof that he is not a foreign national. Therefore, we have no other agency, i. e., appropriate agency but the police whom we had to entrust the work of this detection of Pakistani infilrants.

We are taking from 1961. That being the basis of the number we have got since 1961 till 1966, January and February figures are not handy at the moment, 2,21,591 persons have been detected, 13,290 prosecuted, 10,927 have been convicted, 630 have been acquitted, 1733 case, are pending and 1295 are pending investigation, in Jail there were 39 since gone back after trial, 10,846 left for Pakistan on receipt of Deportation Notice, 1,36,212 quit notices were served, but departure not confirmed by the Check-posts, 70,524 cases are on appeal, I cannot say whose cases are on appeal, if the hon. Members wanted to know about the cases.

I am first giving the statement showing the cases of Pak infiltrants, referred to Tribunals of Assam till 31st December, 1966. The total number of cases referred to the Tribunal is 9,224 involving 48,028 persons. The number of cases decided by the Tribunals is 3,486 involving 16,340 persons. These cases have been disposed of and the Tribunals accepted the deportation order. In cases of 1,183 involving 6,545 persons, the Tribunals advised withdrawal of quit notices. Cases pending in the Tribunals number 4,555 involving 25,143 persons.

***M. A. MUSAWWIR CHOUDHURY (Rupohihat):** Sir, on a point of clarification.

According to the Chief Minister those persons had been served with quit India notices and they had been tried by the Tribunals and acquitted. Is it not harassment of Indian Muslims?

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** Police are not Gods. They take up cases and investigate. The Tribunal or Court in some cases find some persons guilty and in some cases not guilty.

MOULANA ABDUL JALIL CHOWDHURY (Badarpur): वजरिया पुलिस, वगैर मुकदमके निकाले गये ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, I will first complete the figures in Civil Courts. The total number of cases filed is 1, 829; cases disposed of against plaintiffs—438; cases disposed of in favour of plaintiffs—76; cases pending—1,360. Total number of cases filed in High Courts—199; cases disposed of against plaintiffs—167; cases disposed of in favour of plaintiffs—8; cases pending—24. Cases filed in Supreme Court number 1; cases disposed of against plaintiff number 1. There is another statement which shows the number of cases filed by infiltrants after re-entry. I am giving out the figures. Cases filed by deportees in Civil Courts after infiltration—Cachar—3; Kamrup—10; Sibsagar—4; Khasi and Jaintia Hills—2; Garo Hills—1. Supreme Court—Lakhimpur 1, Darrang 1. Total 29 cases. Out of these one Supreme Court case was decided in favour of the State. In the two cases of Khasi and Jaintia Hills the High Court directed the parties to take shelter in Civil Court. One filed a Civil Suit which is pending and the other left for Pakistan. The other cases are pending.

Sir, I now come to the question of the procedure. From what I have submitted the hon. Members would agree that this is a problem which we have to tackle now. How to tackle this problem? What would be the best procedure? Sir, at first the Foreigners' Act had the special provision of deportation according to which the Government of India delegated power to the Registration Officers or the Superintendents of Police. They under the Foreigners' Act have the authority to deport foreigners. As this process started and when complaints were received that this procedure needs modification, at first it was the Government of India in consultation with the State Government decided that Officers on Special Duty—officers having judicial background should be appointed as Special Officers for scrutinising the cases, and it started from January, 1965, and after that it was felt that this was not enough. After the amalgamation of Foreigners' Tribunal Order, 1964, statutory Tribunals for hearing cases under quit India started functioning from October, 1964. Sir, with regard to the procedure also from time to time we are issuing instructions; for example when we found that a sizeable number of infiltrants have been deported we felt that now only the marginal cases are coming we alerted the Superintendents of Police and suggested that these deportation notices should be restricted to certain categories of infiltrants. For example if a man is found to be a new infiltrant or a person with whom is found a Pakistani Passport, deportation notices should be served. So far as the other cases are concerned, those should be tried in the Court of law. So, my submission is that this is a job which we are to do. This is an unpleasant job and investigations have to be made, checks have to be done and so far we are concerned we are equally anxious that there is no harassment, and we have been trying to modify and improve the procedure from time to time. It would depend very much upon what shape this problem take. For example a few months back we had confirmed information that on East Pakistan side they were collecting people by thousands for re-infiltration to Assam. Therefore, it would depend very much how the other side behave in this regard. This is what we have been doing and I have explained to the House whatever information I have in this regard.

Sir, about the flood problems in Assam, there has been much criticism that we have not been able to take adequate measures to protect the people from ravages of floods. Sir, I should say that in a sense that is a correct criticism. It is true that whatever measures we have adopted for controlling floods has not been adequate. In case of high floods embankment gave away and lot of distress was created. We have been trying to get the help of technical experts from various Technical and Research Colleges of the country as well as from outside to tackle these problems. Sir, it is a well known fact that every year floods bring distress to our people. Last year, floods and erosion caused havoc to the people of Jorhat and its neighbouring areas. We have been trying to tackle these problems, but I do not know how long it will take to do so. I am not in a position to say now. It is a fact that at the beginning due to inexperience, something has been done wrongly. But the Flood Control Department has taken every possible steps and care to avoid recurrence and in expediting the flood control plans.

Sir, yesterday, there was lot of criticisms about delay in finalising the resettlement of land policy in Goalpara Zamindaries. The main difficulty is that no proper records are available. Therefore, lots of difficulties are experienced in that connection.....

[1st April,

This is why in many cases lots of difficulties are experienced. Therefore, from time to time Government has decided to extend the period for finalising resettlement with a view to get the actual complainant's cases heard. In the past sufficient time was given for such examination. But now whatever anomaly is to be set right in an easier way, we will have to consider that.

Shri BEINOY KRISHNA GHOSE (Goalpara-East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, May I know from the hon. Chief Minister whether the anomalies in settlement operation at Goalpara are due to deletion of a section from the Goalpara Tenancy Act known as "Buzarat"?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, I am not in a position to go through such Act at the moment.

Sir, about the Land Settlement Policy, we adopted the Land Settlement Policy Resolution of Agricultural land of 1958 and that has been following uptill now. But we are going to review that Resolution and see what new situation develops

Shri KABIR CHANDRA ROY PRADHANI (Golakganj): ইয়াৰ record লোৱা হৈছিল নে নাই?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: লোৱা হৈছে, কিন্তু সি যথেষ্ট নহয়।

Shri SARAT CHANDRA RABHA [Dudnai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: জমিদাৰী প্রথা উচ্ছেদৰ পিচত, যিবিলাক বেমেজালি হৈছে সেইবিলাকৰ কাৰণে মানুহে দৰখাস্ত আদি দিলেও কোনো কাম হোৱা নাই; মানুহ বিলাকই উচ্ছেদ কৰা হৈয়ে আছে।

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: মাননীয় সদস্য যি সমস্যাৰ কথা কৈছে সেইবিষয়ে, তেখেত সকলে যি পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়াইছে—আলোচনা কৰি বিবেচনা কৰা হব। বিশেষকৈ গোৱালপাৰা জিলাৰ সদস্য সকলে যদি এবাৰ আলোচনাৰ কাৰণে আহে—তেনেহলে বিতং আলোচনা কৰিব পৰা হব।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): এনেকুৱা বহুতো সমস্যা আছে।

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: "Government have in their Land Settlement of agricultural land of 25th September, 1958 given utmost importance to resettlement of persons who have been rendered landless due to flood, river erosion, earthquake and acquisition and requisition of their land for public purposes. Government have accordingly settled large areas of lands with such persons and other landless people."

"An area of 10,31,596 bighas of Government waste land have been settled with landless person during the period from 1949 to 1966. Further, an area of 4,98,185 bighas of P. G. R. and V. G. R. lands have been thrown open for settlement during the period from 1948 to 1966.

"Further an area of 1,96,924 bighas of land were requisitioned for allotment to landless persons of which 1,57,873 bighas were allotted till 31st December 1965".

Sir, so far as the Government is concerned, we would like to review the policy not only in respect of land policy, as a matter of fact, we would like to examine the policy of the refinery in the light of present circumstances of demands. The hon. Member from Sibsagar, the other day, accused the Government that they have not taken up the case with the Government of India for establishing an additional refinery in Assam. Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that this has already been taken up by us. As a matter of fact, we have taken up the matter very early.

The reaction of the Government of India is as follows:—

"In regard to an additional refinery in Assam, I notice that the Assam Government have formally written to the O. N. G. C. that mining leases in Lakwa and Rudrasagar will be given only subject to the condition that the oil produced in Assam shall be refined in the State of Assam and the gas will also be utilised within Assam. The size of the demand for refined products within Assam is so small that the two refineries now located in Assam cannot find market inside Assam for their products and have to shift large quantities as far afield as Northern Uttar Pradesh. The result is heavy loss on railway freight. More than 75 per cent of the production of the Gauhati refinery and about 20 per cent of the production of the Digboi refinery had to be despatched to be destinations west of Siliguri. It is quite obvious that until the demand in Assam is greatly increased, the expansion of refining capacity in Assam by setting up a new refinery will be quite unjustified. When internal demand in Assam grows to adequate size, it could probably be better met by additions to Gauhati refinery capacity rather than by setting up a new refinery. In these circumstances, we sincerely hope that the State Government will revise its attitude and co-operate in facilitating and speeding oil exploration and production in Assam."

I am reading out from a letter which I have received from the Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals, Government of India, dated 13th July, 1966.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : May I know whether the Government of Assam has written any letter in reply to this letter ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Yes, not only letters but there were discussions also.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Whether it is a fact that the Government of India rejected outrightly this problem for which they have already asked the West Bengal Government to set up a refinery in the fourth plan in Siliguri ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: I have no information about Siliguri oil refinery plan.

The question of employment in the Fertilizer Corporation of India was also raised here and it seems I have obtained the latest figures and I would like to read it to the hon. Members for their information—

(1) Number of persons employed in National Fertilizer Corporation of India.	1999	(Including 64 nees).
(2) Number of local men employed
(a) Category—wise..		
Officers	26	...
Supervisory	32	...
Non-Supervisory	462	...
Trainees	51	...
(b) On regular basis	571	...
(c) On Muster Roll	478	(Total M. R. employees as on 28th February 1967=827).

With regard to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, the position is as follows:—

Sl. No.	Category	Percentage	Number
1	Class I (Tech. and non-Tech.)	11.5	20
2	Class II (Tech. and non-Tech.)	11	1
3	Class III (Tech. and non-Tech.)	65	1365
4	Class IV (Tech. and non-Tech-including contract labourers)-	90	1249

Sir, I would like to submit that I find from time to time these statements are obtained by the Government and from these I find that there have been considerable improvement in the employment of local people in the State.

Sir, the State Transport in Assam has paid a net profit to the extent of Rs. 3,82,60,813 to the State exchequer upto the end of 31st March, 1966 against a capital investment of Rs. 3,74,18,49. The State Transport has paid a net profit of Rs. 5,71,141 during 1964-65 and Rs. 6,73,750 during 1965-66 as per Balance sheet audited by the Accountant General, Assam and Nagaland. The State Transport has to run some routes which are not

economical, but in spite of that, so far the income side is concerned, generally speaking, it is fairly satisfactory. We are contemplating to establish a Corporation and after that, I suppose, we will expect more investment of capital for improvement of our State Transport because the Railways will be participating in it.

Sir, with regard to the Assam Co-operative Jute Mill, the Government have no information regarding the use of vehicles belonging to the Jute Mill for any election purpose; but after hearing the hon. Member we referred this to the Co-operative Jute Mill.

The project estimate so far prepared has not been found acceptable by the Industrial Financial Corporation of India. This has, therefore, been revised again. There are some difficulties about foreign exchange also.

Sir, we discussed in this House yesterday the question of rifle butts and I would like to give some information in this regard. The Director of Industries, Assam received 16 purchase orders for 15.47 lakh pieces of rifle half wroughts from Director General of Supplies and Disposals from December, 1952 just after the Chinese aggression, upto the end of 1966.

From the beginning of 1963 up-to-date the Director of Industries, Assam has supplied 13.40 lakh pieces.

It is not correct to say that the Government will suffer huge loss in rifle half wrought supply transactions. It has been estimated that some margin of profit will be left when the supply will be completed. Over and above this, indirect benefits have accrued to the State by way of sales-tax, larger employment, timber royalty, etc. There were, however, some irregularities in the accounts into which preliminary inquiries were made. Proceedings have been drawn up against those officers who were responsible for the irregularities and two senior officers had been placed under suspension.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Whether it is a fact that after discussing this question of rifle butts the officer who had been entrusted by the Government to go into the details of the whole affairs had been retrenched from service without any notice?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : I do not like to go into that. Actually, there were some proceedings against these officers much before the subject was discussed.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I have great respect for hon. Members, Shri Bishnu Prasad Rava and Dr. Bhupan Hazarika with regard to this Studio. I am more or less associated with this work and in many matters, I suppose, they know much better than me. Sir, we are to have this Studio at a cost of Rs.13,31,518 with First Studio Floor, Scoring and Dubbing theatre, Laboratory Building, Administrative Block and Guest House. So far, the work of construction has been completed as follows:

1. First Studio Floor.
2. Administrative Block.
3. Laboratory Building.
4. One small Guest House.
4. Scoring and Dubbing Theatre to the extent of 75 per cent.

The total expenditure incurred so far amounts to Rs. 8,83,985. The last meeting of the Studio Advisory Board held in February, 1966 recommended certain modifications in the Studio Floor, Laboratory Building and Dubbing and Scoring Theatre. These modifications have not yet been completed. The P. W. D. has however, taken up the work and it is expected to be completed by August, 1967. Sir, with regard to the equipments the hon. Members will be disappointed to know that in spite of our best efforts we could not get any foreign exchange. Therefore, finally it was decided that these equipments should be purchased within the country. I am told that with these equipments it will be possible to start the work of this Studio and I am told that they expect to complete everything by the end of August and even before that it may be possible to use this Studio partially. So, in this matter, so far the Studio is concerned, I am equally anxious like the hon. Members to see that it is completed. So, Sir, in that regard whatever advice would be given to me I would gladly accept not only with regard to Theatre but also with regard to Arts and Music. As a matter of fact, Government will be highly obliged if the hon. Members who are actually interested in this subject and who are highly reputed in the subject of drama, music and dance, advise Government with specific suggestions. Because of Art we will have to give recognition to the Artists and also we want to be helpful to them in that regard for their co-operation and help and I can assure them that whatever suggestions they give it will be our earnest endeavour to implement it.

Sir, with regard to Five Year Plan and the development Blocks, both in the Hills and Plains, as you are aware this Fourth Five Year Plan was approved with a target of Rs. 190 crores and now, because of the new situation they are going to make some review about it. So far last year is concerned, the first year of the Fourth Five Year Plan, a lot of energy and property were spent, but we hope we will be able to make better progress this year.

Sir, as the hon. Members are aware, a large number of refugees entered our State in the year 1964. As a matter of fact their number was quite high. About 2 lakhs of people entered in our State. We have informed the Government of India that it would not be possible for us to rehabilitate the entire refugees within our State, because of inadequate facilities of employment and labour and therefore we took responsibility to rehabilitate about 12,000 families. Out of this, upto December, 1966, 5786 families have moved to rehabilitation site, 1753 families have been sent to N.E.F.A and 537 families to Bihar for rehabilitation. 2638 persons have been given employment under Rashtriya Vikas Dal or Border Road Forces, etc. Another 750 Chakma families have been sent to N.E.F.A. and 500 are likely to be sent shortly. This is the progress of the refugee rehabilitation so far.

Sir, the hon. Member from Sibsagar, mentioned about construction of road in the Sibsagar Constituency. I have enquired into it and it appears that 1½ mile of road with an estimated cost of Rs. 10,000 have been completed till now. Desangmukh road via Gohaingoan, Dehingiaga on Chetiangoan, etc. was taken during this period and it is also stated that some unauthorised Contractors have taken these roads and it was also stated that it should be verified because Mr. Gogoi is not here. But according to Department some unautho-

rised Contractors started the works. Actually final sanction of this work was issued only on the 18th of February. As regards Soil, Oil fire, Sir, the position is as follows:—

The fire that caught Well No. 25 on 4th January, 1967 affected 48 families. Assessment of damage in respect of properties, soil, etc., has been completed excluding the damage to the building, roads and embankments which are being made by the P.W.D.

An area of about 150 acres was damaged by the blowout excluding the "Bari" land, the extent of damage will come to about 400 bighas. There is every likelihood that recuperation of normal fertility will take at least 4 years, during which there will be no production in the first two years, 50 per cent production in the third year and 75 per cent in the fourth year.

The damage of soil on this account will be to the tune of Rs.2,20,000 as per present calculation. The damage to properties (trees, crops, etc.) is estimated at Rs.30,972. Thus the total loss comes to Rs.2,50,972.

For immediate relief of the affected people, (1) a sum of Rs.25,000 was sanctioned by Government. (2) Another sum of Rs 5,000 was placed at the disposal of the Subdivisional Officer, Sibsagar, by the O. N. G. C. authorities.

The shifting cost *cum*-compensation amounting to Rs.13,600-00 was given to 13 badly affected families ranging from Rs.300 to Rs.2,000 per family and 46 bundles of C.I. sheets were issued to them on payment basis. Besides, gratuitous relief was issued to many families at the rate of Rs.50 per family.

As the wells dried up in the affected areas, 8 tube wells were sunk to provide drinking water to the affected people.

O. N. G. C. authorities have been requested to take prompt action for payment of above mentioned compensation to the affected people. The matter is under correspondence with them. The Manager, O. N. G. C., Sibsagar has taken up the matter with the Director or Administration, O. N. G. C., Dehra Dun.

Sir, with regard to Hindi education, it will not be quite correct to say that we are not doing anything about its. Hindi has been made compulsory upto Class VIII. With regard to the salary of Parangads, there was some difference of opinion. The other day it has been sorted out. The Parangads who are serving in the high schools will be entitled to the senior scale whereas those serving in the middle schools will be entitled to the junior scale.

Shri KABIR CHANDRA ROY PRADHANI (Golakganj): একে পাঁচদশিতা থকা সত্ত্বেও দুই বকমৰ দৰমহা দিয়া হয় নেকি ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: কি কবিব, তেনেকুৱা হৈয়েই থাকে ।

Dr. BHUMIDHAR BARMAN (Nalbari-West): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, উত্তৰ গুৱাহাটীত হিন্দী স্কুল এখন হোৱাৰ কথা আছিল, এই কথাৰে উত্তৰ মই বিচাৰিছোঁ ।

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : এইটো অহা অধিবেশনত কম বুলি ভাবিছো।

Sir there have been some criticisms about the Sramik Bahinis. Sramik Bahinis have been allotted work according to their capacity. 110 Sramik Bahinis have got work in North Kamrup (E. & D. Division), 540 local contractors were also given work. As local labour is not used to doing earth-work, their progress is not satisfactory. Due to the enforcement of higher specification of earth-work the local labourers were found reluctant to do such work. So, the work had to be done through contractors with good labour strength recruited from within and outside the State.

As regards compensation cases mentioned by Shri Kabir Chandra Roy Pradhan. I agree that in the matter of payment of compensation considerable delay takes place. We have since appointed several revenue officers to dispose of special compensation cases. I think there will be some improvement.

Sir, the hon. Member from Morigaon mentioned about the pending cases in the Nowgong Courts. At present excluding the Deputy Commissioner and the A. D. M. there are 7 magistrates in the executive side at Nowgong. In the judicial side there is one A. D. M., Judicial, and 4 judicial magistrates. No complaint has been received so far regarding delay in the disposal of court cases at Nowgong. The hon. Chief Justice of the Assam High Court visited Nowgong on 17th January 1967 and among other things he observed "there is yet no Additional District Magistrate (Judicial) functioning there. The case file is not also very heavy".

Shri PITSING KONWAR [Morigaon (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : There are about 5000 cases including Excise cases. There is no A. D. M. since three and half months back.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : As I said, the Chief Justice in his inspection report has said that the case file is not very heavy.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Has he given any figures ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : No, he has not given any figures.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : According to his opinion 5000 cases or so may not be very heavy.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Sir, the question of school buildings was raised. As a matter of fact this is a very big problem. We have 19,000 primary schools of which 5,000 are in the Hills. The total number of M. V. Schools stands at 800. The total number of teachers is 37,000 of which slightly more than 3400 are in the hills. The present enrolment is nearly 19 lakhs. The amounts spent during the last 3 years are (i) on repairs and reconstruction of school buildings—nearly Rs.45 lakhs; (ii) on equipments Rs.12.5 lakhs; (iii) on furniture

Rs. 4.5 lakhs and (iv) on salary of teachers—slightly over Rs. 5 crores annually. So, Sir, it has really become a very serious matter for consideration. We are encouraging opening of more and more schools, but there is no doubt that in most of the schools the condition of the building is very bad, furniture inadequate and equipments are also insufficient. It will require a colossal amount to set all these things right. It will depend very much upon the resources of the State, but the problem will be easier to tackle if the State funds are supplemented by the public. Of course, the public are doing a lot of development of the primary schools, but it will require still greater efforts to bring these schools to proper standard.

Sir, I have tried to touch on all the main points. It would take a considerably long time to reply to all the points raised.

Shri PITSING KONWAR: The Chief Minister has not spoken about the development of plains tribal people, about which I referred in my speech on Governor's Address.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: I did not mention anything sectionally. What I said was that our plan was finalised at Rs. 190 crores in the State sector and 30 to 35 crores more for investment in the Central sector. So far as the last year was concerned, preliminary preparations took a long time. From this year onwards, subject to an early decision in Delhi, we hope to execute the plan properly so far as the plains tribal people are concerned. There is no question of neglecting or overlooking the interest of the plains tribal areas and the plains tribal people. The hon. Member mentioned about the futility of the tribal belts and blocks. These are matters of State policy. In reviewing our Land Policy Resolution we will have to examine all these matters and I may assure the hon. Member that the plains tribal people would get their due share in the sphere of development, and I would expect their full co-operation in this regard. Sir, I do not like to prolong my speech. It is now past 6.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): Sir, I have raised a point regarding the teachers who have been dismissed. This issue involves an amount of about Rs. 50 lakhs. May I know from the hon. Chief Minister for whose fault these teachers were dismissed? Is it a fact that the hon. High Court also gave a decision in 1964 in favour of the teachers, and after two years the matter went to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court also gave a decision in their favour? I want to know for whose fault the teachers have been dismissed and for which Government have to pay? The person responsible should be made to pay the amount to Government.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: The hon. Member has raised an important question. It involves about 1000 teachers. This matter is very important and so before the General Election when it came up to the Cabinet it was decided that this matter should be left to the new Government and now Government hope to take a decision within April.

Sir, I would now like to conclude my speech by offering my thanks to the hon. Members. I have dealt with the important problems faced by the State which required serious attention of the hon. Members of this House as well as the people of the State. Two are more important subjects—one is food and the other is re-organisation question. The hon. Members from the plains districts as well as hills have heard the various views expressed in

this House and outside on this proposal. In my opinion the leaders of the hills are also leaders of the plains because they are the leaders of the State. Similarly the leaders of the plains are also the leaders of the hills because they are also the leaders of the State. Therefore we will have to exert our best to find out a solution which will satisfy the people of the hills as well as the people of the plains, that is, the entire people of the State. That alone would help us in this situation. If we cannot agree and ask someone else to find out a solution for us then I do not think that will be a satisfactory solution. Therefore, I feel that this is a matter which must cut across the party barrier and regional barrier, and we must exert ourselves fully in order to find out a solution, and I think it would be possible for us to do so only with the full co-operation of all sections of the people. May be lot of mistakes have been committed but nevertheless we will have to, through mutual criticism and advice correct ourselves and see that the special responsibility with which we have been sent to this House by the people is charged to their satisfaction and as best as we can.

With these words I conclude my speech.

Mr. SPEAKER : There are 9 amendments to the motion of thanks to the Governor's address. Now, how do you want me to deal with them ?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Only the first amendment may be taken up.

(The remaining amendments were withdrawn with the leave of the House)

Mr. SPEAKER : I put the amendment. The question is that at the end of the motion moved by Shri Biswadev Sarma, relating to the Governor's Address the following may be added :—

But this Assembly regrets that the Governor's Address fails to take into account the following :—

(a) failure of the administration in the matter of food price and procurement ;

(b) failure of the administration in the matter of industrialisation ;

(c) failure of the administration in solving the problem of unemployment ;

(d) failure of the Government in tackling the problem of the Hills people, giving a clear and efficient solution and in securing the unity and integrity of the people of the State as a whole,

(The House divided)

Noes—58

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Moulana Abdul Jalil Chowdhury. | 30. Shri Malia Tanti |
| 2. Shri Abdul Matlib Mazumdar | 31. Rani Manjula Devi |
| 3. Shri Altaf Hossain Mazumder | 32. Shri Manik Chandra Das |
| 4. Shri Bazlul Basit | 33. Shri Mathura Mohan Sinha |
| 5. Dr. Bhuminhar Barman | 34. Shri Mathius Tudu |
| 6. Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha | 35. Shri Mera Chouba Singha |
| 7. Shri Bisnuram Medhi | 36. Shri Mohi Kanta Das |
| 8. Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya | 37. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury |
| 9. Shri Biswadev Sarma | 38. Shri Nakul Chandra Das |
| 10. Shri C. G. Karmakar | 39. Shri Narayan Chandra Bhuyan |
| 11. Shri Chatrasing Teron | 40. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma |
| 12. Shri Dandiram Dutta | 41. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain |
| 13. Shri Debeswar Sarmah | 42. Shri Paramananda Gogoi |
| 14. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika | 43. Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury |
| 15. Shri Dhani Ram Rongpi | 44. Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury |
| 16. Shri Dharanidhar Choudhury | 45. Shri Prafulla Choudhury |
| 17. Shri Durgeswar Saikia | 46. Mrs. Pranita Talukdar |
| 18. Shri Golok Chandra Patgiri | 47. Shri Pushpadhar Chaliha |
| 19. Shri Govindra Chandra Bora | 48. Shri Ramesh Chandra Barooah |
| 20. Shri J. B. Hagjer | 49. Shri Ratneswar Konger |
| 21. Shri Jadu Nath Bhuyan | 50. Shri Sadhan Ranjan Sarkar |
| 22. Shri Jagannath Sinha | 51. Shri Sai Sai Terang |
| 23. Shri Jogen Saikia | 52. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami |
| 24. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi | 53. Shri Satindra Mohon Dev |
| 25. Shri Karuna Kanta Gogoi | 54. Shri Surendra Chandra Baruah |
| 26. Shri Lakshmi Prasad Goswami | 55. Shri Surendra Nath Das |
| 27. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta | 56. Shri Syed Ahmed Ali ... |
| 28. Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury. | 57. Shri Upendra Nath Sanatan |
| 29. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika | 58. Shri Uttam Chandra Brahma |

Eyes—36

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Abala Kanta Goswami | 19. Shri Kehoram Hazarika |
| 2. M. A. Musawwir Choudhury | 20. Shri Lakshya Dhar Choudhury |
| 3. Shri Atul Chandra Goswami | 21. Shri Maneswar Boro |
| 4. Md. Azad Ali | 22. Shri Matilal Nayak |
| 5. Shri Benoy Krishna Ghose | 23. Md. Matlebuiddin |
| 6. Shri Bhadreswar Gogoi | 24. Shri Mohidhar Pegu |
| 7. Shri Bhadra Kanta Gogoi | 25. Shri Motilal Kanoo |
| 8. Dr. Bhupen Hazarika | 26. Shri Nameswar Pegu |
| 9. Shri Bishnu Prasad Rava | 27. Shri Phani Bora |
| 10. Shri Dulal Chandra Barua | 28. Shri Pitsing Konwar |
| 11. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya | 29. Shri Premadhor Bora |
| 12. Shri Giasuddin Ahmed | 30. Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi |
| 13. Shri Govinda Kalita | 31. Shri Sailen Medhi |
| 14. Shri Hiralal Patwari | 32. Shri Sarat Chandra Rabha |
| 15. Shri Jalal Uddin Ahmed | 33. M. Shamsul Huda |
| 16. Shri Kabir Chandra Roy Pradhani. | 34. Shri Soneswar Bora |
| 17. Shri Kamini Mohan Sarma | 35. Dr. Surendra Nath Das |
| 18. Shri Kandarpa Narayan Banikya | 36. Shri Zahirul Islam |

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order, the result is:—

Ayes—36, Noes—58: the amendment is lost.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Baghmara (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what about the other amendment ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The other amendment with leave of the House was withdrawn. This is an established procedure.

Shri HOOVER HYNNEWTA (Shillong) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the amendment has not been withdrawn. Mr. Dulal Barua has not the authority to grant leave on our behalf.

Mr. SPEAKER : This is the procedure, Mr. Hynniewta. When leave was sought there was nobody who pleaded for the amendment.

Now, I put the question:—The question is that the members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House on the 20th March, 1967.

(Voice : No.)
(The House divided).

Ayes—58

1. Moulana Abdul Jalil Chowdhury.
2. Shri Abdul Matlib Mazumdar.
3. Shri Altaf Hossain Mazumdar.
4. Shri Bazlul Basit.
5. Dr. Bhumidhar Barman.
6. Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha.
7. Shri Bishnuram Medhi.
8. Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya.
9. Shri Biswadev Sarma.
10. Shri C. G. Karmakar.
11. Shri Chatrasing Teron.
12. Shri Dandiram Dutta.
13. Shri Debeswar Sarma.
14. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika.
15. Shri Dhani Ram Rongpi.
16. Shri Dharanidhar Choudhury.
17. Shri Durgeswar Saikia.
18. Shri Golok Chandra Patgiri.
19. Shri Govinda Chandra Bora.
20. Shri J. B. Hagjer.
21. Shri Jadu Nath Bhuyan.
22. Shri Jagannath Sinha.
23. Shri Jogen Saikia.
24. Shri Kamalhya Prasad Tripathi.
25. Shri Karuna Kanta Gogoi.
26. Shri Lakshmi Prasad Goswami.
27. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta.
28. Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury.
29. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika.
30. Shri Malia Tanti.
31. Rani Manjula Devi.
32. Shri Manik Chandra Das.
33. Shri Mathura Mohon Sinha.
34. Shri Mathius Tudu.
35. Shri Mera Chouba Singha.
36. Shri Mohi Kanta Das.
37. M. Meinul Haque Choudhury.
38. Shri Nakui Chandra Das.
39. Shri Narayan Chandra Bhuyan.
40. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma.
41. Srimati Padma Kumari Gohain.
42. Shri Paramananda Gogoi.
43. Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury.
44. Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury.
45. Shri Prafulla Choudhury.
46. Ms. Pranita Talukdar.
47. Shri Pushpadhar Chaliha.
48. Shri Ramesh Chandra Barooah.
49. Shri Ratneswar Konger.
50. Shri Sadhan Ranjan Sarkar.
51. Shri Sai Sai Terang.
52. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami.
53. Shri Satindra Mohon Dev.
54. Shri Surendra Chandra Baruah.
55. Shri Surendra Nath Das.
56. Shri Syed Ahmed Ali.
57. Shri Upendra Nath Sanatan.
58. Shri Uttam Chandra Brahma.

Noes—41

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Abala Kanta Goswami. | 20. Shri Kandarpa Narayan Banikya. |
| 2. M. A. Musawwir Choudhury. | 21. Shri Kehoram Hazarika. |
| 3. Shri Atul Chandra Goswami. | 22. Shri Laksha Dhar Chaudhury. |
| 4. Md. Azad Ali. | 23. Shri Maneswar Boro. |
| 5. Shri Benoy Krishna Ghose. | 24. Shri Matilal Nayak. |
| 6. Shri Bhadreswar Gogoi. | 25. Md. Matlebuddin. |
| 7. Shri Bhadra Kanta Gogoi. | 26. Shri Mohidhar Pegu. |
| 8. Dr. Bhupen Hazarika. | 27. Shri Motilal Kancoo. |
| 9. Shri Bishnu Prasad Rava. | 28. Shri Nameswar Pegu. |
| 10. Shri Dulal Chandra Baruah. | 29. Shri Phani Bora. |
| 11. Shri Edwingson Bareh. | 30. Shri Pitsing Konwar. |
| 12. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya. | 31. Shri Premodhar Bora. |
| 13. Shri Giasuddin Ahmed. | 32. Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi. |
| 14. Shri Govinda Kalita. | 33. Shri Sailen Medhi. |
| 15. Shri Hiralal Patwary. | 34. Shri Sarat Chandra Rabha. |
| 16. Shri Hoover Hynniewta. | 35. M. Shamsul Huda. |
| 17. Shri Julal Uddin Ahmed. | 36. Shri Soneswar Bora. |
| 18. Shri Kabir Chandra Roy Pradhani. | 37. Shri Stanley D.D. Nichols-Roy. |
| 19. Shri Kamini Mohon Sarma. | 38. Dr. Surendra Nath Das. |
| | 39. Shri Tazammul Ali Laskar. |
| | 40. Capt. Williamson A. Sangma. |
| | 41. Shri Zahirul Islam. |

Mr. SPEAKER: The result of the vote is as below :—

Ayes 58, Noes 41.

The Motion is adopted.

Results of Election to the Assam Road Communication Board

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce the results of election to the Assam Roads Communication Board.

Out of 24 members to be elected—one from each Subdivision of the State of Assam including two from the District of Nowgong—I have got an agreed list for 23 members. There is no candidate from the Subdivision of Lungleh of Mizo District. The seat will therefore remain vacant till it is filled up when a candidate representing that Subdivision will be forthcoming.

The following members are declared elected :—

1. Shri A. Thanglura.
2. Shri Dhaniram Rongpi.
3. Shri J. B. Hagjer.
4. Shri Jadunath Bhuyan.
5. Shri Pushpadhar Chaliha.
6. Shri Narendranath Sarma.
7. Shri Narayan Bhuyan.
8. Shri Bahadur Basumatari
9. Shri Abul Kasem.
10. Shri Daranidhar Choudhury.
11. Shri Uttam Brahma.
12. Shri Jagannath Sinha.
13. Shri Prafulla Choudhury.
14. Shri Premadhar Bora.
15. Shri Pitsing Konwar.
16. Shri Matilal Nayak.
17. Shri Rothindra Nath Sen.
18. Md. Azad Ali.
19. Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi.
20. Capt. Williamson A. Sangma.
21. Shri Edwingson Bareh.
22. Shri Bhadrassarwar Gogoi.
23. Jonab Rohimuddin Ahmed.

Result of Election to the Gauhati University Court

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce the result of election to the Gauhati University Court.

The number of candidates being equal to the number of seats vacant, the following are declared elected unopposed :—

1. Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya.
2. Shri Ataur Rahman.
3. Shri M. Moinul Haque Choudhury.
4. Shri Bishnu Prasad Rava.
5. Dr. Bhupen Hazarika.

Result of Election to the Assam Road Communication Board

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Baghmara, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Sir, in the Assam Roads Communication Board, the name of Mr. Stanley D. D. Nichols-Roy whom we elected from Shillong Subdivision is not included.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Sonai): From Karimganj Subdivision two members were elected, but their names are not there.

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs): From Barpeta also two members were elected, but their names are not there.

Shri JOGEN SAIKIA (Jorhat): Sir, Jorhat Subdivision is also omitted.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is an agreed list. Thirteen names were given by the Congress Party and 10 names by the Opposition.

The Opposition names were:—

Shri Premadhar Bora.

Shri Pitsing Konwar.

Shri Matilal Nayak.

Shri Rothindra Nath Sen.

Md. Azad Ali.

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi.

Capt. Williamson A. Sangma.

Shri Edwingson Barch.

Shri Bhadreswar Gogoi.

Jonab Rahimuddin Ahmed.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, we adopted a resolution to represent one from each Subdivision.

Shri JOGEN SAIKIA: Sir, Jorhat is omitted.

Mr. SPEAKER: After all I announced the names from the agreed list. I did not scrutinise which Subdivision was there or which Subdivision was not there. It was an agreed list.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: But the problem is, Sir, the House has taken a resolution that each Subdivision will be represented. Whether agreed or not agreed it is the fault of the people who agreed without scrutinising. This awkward situation cannot be accepted.

Mr. SPEAKER: The list submitted to me does not show who belongs to which Subdivision and I had no scope for scrutiny which particular Subdivision was not represented.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, we have to postpone the announcement to the next session.

Mr. SPEAKER: If that is the sense of the House, I defer the matter.

After I announced the names of the hon. Members, I do not know which Subdivision is represented or which Subdivision is not represented. This is according to the list that has been submitted to me both by the Congress Party and the other Parties. I have already read out the names according to that list.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Baghmara, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Sir, there is no representation from my Subdivision.

(Interruption)

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I request to postpone the announcement for the time being. We cannot accept the list.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi): It is better to take a resolution that each Subdivision should be represented. Here, in the list, we do not find that Jorhat Subdivision is represented. So, it cannot be accepted.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am in a difficult position. However, if it is the sense of the House, I defer the matter.

Expunction of certain objectionable portion from the Proceedings

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to make two other announcements—one is regarding the assurances that I have given on the 29th March 1967. I said that—"If I find anything objectionable in the speech of hon. Member Shri D. Sarmah that portion will be expunged." I have carefully gone through the proceedings as recorded by the reporter and I have also verified the same by listening to the tape recorder. It is very difficult to find out which is the objectionable portion. If the hon. Member means only these portions which I find from the report—

When Shri Abdul Jalil Chowdhury was speaking, hon. Member Shri Debeswar Sarmah said—"Only by mouth they say that Pakistanis should be driven out."

Here the word "they" is only used. "They" does not mean any particular section of people.

At that time there was exchange of words in Hindi and the Hindi report is not yet submitted.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, it is in the Hindi portion of the proceedings.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hindi portion of the proceedings is not yet submitted.

Then, again, the second portion is—

"Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got a point of order. Sir, it is the rule of the House that no motive should

[1st April,

be attributed to any member. Mr. Sarmah was the Speaker of this august House. Therefore, he knows the rules of this House. He attributed a motive indirectly to Muslim members that only by mouth they say that Pakistanis should be driven out. This is a great insult to the Muslims. Sir, you should protect us."

Then again, I am reading out another portion which cannot be interpreted to be objectionable. It has been put in a very cleverly manner. My ingenuity, at least, cannot find what interpretation can be given for this sentence. It is—"I simply put my cap on the table to be picked by him on whose head it fits."

(Laughter)

From these two portions and what I have heard from the tape recorder, I find it very difficult to find out any objectionable part or, I think, the matter may be dropped at this stage.

Recognition of the Opposition Parties

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, there is another matter regarding recognition of the Opposition Parties. I have received notice from about 31 hon. Members that they have formed the United Legislature Party. Apart from that there is Communist Party of India, the A.P.H.L.C. and others. The matter needs consideration as to which party should be given formal official recognition. I have not been able to make up my mind to give a decision. So, I defer the decision. So long a decision is not given, these four groups will be considered as distinct and separate groups and they will be given all facilities that have been given to distinct groups.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA: We are not very much concerned what recognition that you will give. But we are concerned what recognition is given by the people outside.

Mr. SPEAKER: I now read out the prorogation order.

"Raj Bhavan

Shillong,

The 31st March, 1967.

ORDER

In exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (2)(a) of Article 174 of the Constitution of India, as amended up to date, I, Vishnu Sahay, Governor of Assam, hereby prorogue the Assam Legislative Assembly at the conclusion of its sitting on the 1st April, 1967.

VISHNU SAHAY
Governor of Assam".

Prorogation

The Assembly was then prorogued.

Shillong
The 26th February 1968.

N. C. HANDIQUE,
for Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam.