

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M., on Thursday, the 26th March, 1953.

P R E S E N T

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B.L., Speaker, in the Chair, the ten Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, the three Parliamentary Secretaries and sixty-three Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Displaced persons died of starvation in village Baraghar

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli asked :

*126. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that eleven displaced persons of village Baraghar, police station Kokrajhar, district Goalpara died of starvation about four months ago ?
- (b) If the Refugee Association of Kokrajhar informed the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara and the Government of the cases of starvation death in November, 1952 ?
- (c) If it is a fact that the said Deputy Commissioner held an enquiry in the matter through the Extra Assistant Commissioner, Kokrajhar by the end of January last ?
- (d) If so, whether any action was taken by the Deputy Commissioner or the Government ?
- (e) The reasons for holding the enquiry after such a long time ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied.

126. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Enquiries were made more than once by an Extra Assistant Commissioner as well as by an Assistant Relief and Rehabilitation Officer and the Medical Officer, in charge of Fakiragram Medical Unit in December, 1952 and January, 1953.

(d)—As the report was found to be baseless no action was considered necessary. But the Local Officers took necessary precautionary measures.

(e)—The enquiries were made as soon as possible after the matter was brought to the notice of the Local Officers.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli: May I know, Sir, when the death actually occurred? In which month?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): I cannot give the name of the month just now.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli: When was the enquiry held, Sir?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): As soon as we got the information, Sir.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli: May I know, Sir, when the dead bodies were found and examined?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): How could the dead bodies be found when the report was not true?

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli: How is it concluded, Sir, that the report is not true?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): The officers sent to make the enquiry visited the locality and they enquired of the people of the neighbourhood and from the evidence given by those people of the neighbourhood this conclusion was arrived at.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli: Were any of the members of the Refugee Association enquired of in this matter by those enquiring officers?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Yes, Sir, at the time of taking evidence of those people of the locality some refugee people were also there, but it is difficult to say who were the members of the Refugee Association.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the information was given by the Refugee Association of Kokrajhar?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Yes, Sir, I have admitted that.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli: May I know, Sir, why they were not asked about the matter?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, whoever were present there at the time of taking the evidence on the matter were all asked.

Number of candidates selected in 1952 for admission to the Assam Medical College.

†Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS asked :

*127. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of candidates selected in 1952 for admission to the Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh by the Selection Board ?
- (b) How many of these selected candidates were first divisioners in I. Sc., how many second divisioners and how many third divisioners ?
- (c) The qualifications considered in selecting the candidates ?
- (d) Whether any Bengalee candidate was selected ?
- (e) How many Bangalee candidates with first division in I.Sc., applied for admission to the Medical College ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

127. (a)—48.

(b)—18 in First Division, 27 in second division, one in third division and two in compartmental.

(c)—Educational qualifications, physique, personality, residence, etc.

(d)—Yes, a substantial number.

(e)—Ten.

Assam Government Press

‡Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS asked :

*128. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount that has been sanctioned as overtime allowance in the Assam Government Press for the year 1952-53 ?

(b) Is it a fact that upto the 31st December 1952 about Rs.40,000 has been paid as overtime allowance in the Assam Government Press ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state why such a huge expenditure has been made ?

*129. (a) Is it a fact that in order to hold the post of officer-in-charge of Assam Government Press it requires a special course of training for 3 years in Printing ?

(b) Is it a fact that the present Special Officer of the Assam Government Press does not possess any technical knowledge in Printing ?

†Questions were put by Shri Ghana Kanta Gogoi on authorization.

‡Questions were put by Shri Sarveswar Boruwa on authorization.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied.

128. (a)—Rs.15,000.

(b)—No. The actual amount of expenditure was Rs.31,042.

(c)—The reason is that with the creation of many new Departments of Government and taking up of new routes by the State Transport Department the work in the Press has increased very considerably. Further increase of work is due to printing of heavy number of Scheduled forms, Non-standardised forms, issue of Extraordinary Gazettes, publication of Indian Law Reports, Paper Books, heavy number of Middle School question papers, Answer Books, works for Military and Central Government and rush of urgent and immediate works from all Departments. Irregularity of supply of paper by the Central Stationery Store and restoration of booking for overtime to clear up arrears immediately on receipt of papers is also another cause for increase of expenditure on overtime allowance.

Shri SARVESWAR BORUWA: With regard to 128(c), it is stated that the increased expenditure is due to many factors including printing of a heavy number of forms. How is it then there is paucity of forms everywhere in spite of such huge expenditure incurred in printing of forms?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): The short supply of paper was more a few months before than it is at present. Along with the receipt of despatches of paper the Press is printing more forms than it used to do before.

Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKLARI: Is it fact that the Governor has a separate Press?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): No, Sir.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): replied:

129. (a)—No minimum qualification was fixed for the post. There is no such rule providing special course of training.

(b)—Yes. But this is purely a temporary arrangement pending termination of the Departmental proceedings drawn up against the permanent Superintendent of the Press.

Firing by Pakistanis in the Dawki Border Area

†**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked:

*130. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether certain persons were shot at recently by the Pakistanis along the Dawki border area?

(b) If so, how many persons were affected by such firing?

- (c) Whether any body was killed in this operation ?
- (d) Whether the State Government moved the Government of India asking for compensation from Pakistan Government for such action on the part of their nationals ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that many women of Assam were arrested by the Pakistani forces sometime back along the Dawki border and if so, what is their number ?
- (f) What is the reason for this arrest ?
- (g) Whether they have been released by now ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied.

130. (a)—Yes, near Rangapani on the Khasi Jaintia Hills border.

(b)—Three persons. One received bullet injury on the left side of his head and other two on their backs.

(c)—None.

(d)—Yes. Protests have been lodged at Government and district levels and compensation to the injured persons asked for from the Pakistani Government. Joint enquiry by the two District Magistrates has also been asked for. The Government of India have been kept informed of all these actions.

(e)—Yes. 35.

(f)—Trespassing into Pakistan territory without passports and also for alleged smuggling.

(g)—Yes.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: With regard to (d), may I know what is the result obtained for the protests lodged with the Pakistan Government ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): No reply is forthcoming and that is why we have taken up the matter with the Government of India so that pressure may be put from that side also.

Voluntary cut in Salary of Ministers

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli asked :

*131. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If it is a fact that the Ministers agreed to a voluntary cut in their salaries sometime ago ?
- (b) If the said cut is restored and the Ministers are drawing their full salaries now ?
- (c) The months or period during which they did not draw full salaries ?

(d) The amount each Minister is actually drawing now as salary ?

(e) The total amount drawn by each Minister as travelling and halting allowances since the beginning of the current financial year ?

(f) The total amount of money :—

(i) paid on account of Municipal tax, if any for the Ministers quarters ?

(ii) paid towards the electric bills for each Minister ?

(iii) paid as salaries of sweepers and gardeners serving in Ministers' quarters and as salaries of chaprasis attending on the Ministers ?

(iv) paid in respect of furniture, crockeries and cutleries or repair charges thereof ?

(v) paid for upkeep of the cars used by Ministers ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

131. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, with effect from the pay of March, 1952 drawn in April, 1952.

(c)—From December, 1949 to February, 1952.

(d)—A statement is given below :—

Statement showing the amount actually drawn by each Minister as salary

Serial No.	Name of Ministers	Salary		
		Rs.	a.	p.
1	Shri Bishnuram Medhi, Chief Minister	1,500	0	0
2	Shri Motiram Bora, Minister-in-charge of Finance and Revenue, etc.	1,000	0	0
3	Shri Siddhinath Sarma, Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department, etc.	1,000	0	0
4	Shri Omeo Kumar Das, Minister-in-charge of Labour, etc.	1,000	0	0
5	Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, Minister-in charge of Food, etc.	1,000	0	0
6	Shri Baidyanath Mookerjee, Minister-in-charge of Supply, etc.	1,000	0	0
7	Shri Rupnath Brahma, Minister-in-charge of Medical, etc.	1,000	0	0
8	Shri Ramnath Das, Minister-in-charge of Forests, etc.	1,000	0	0
9	Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy, Minister-in-charge of Excise, etc.	1,000	0	0
10	Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar, Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government, etc.	1,000	0	0
11	Shri Purnananda Chetia, Deputy Minister-in-charge of Labour, etc.	750	0	0
12	Shri Hareswar Das, Deputy Minister-in-charge of Revenue, etc.	750	0	0

(e)—A Statement is given below—

Statement showing the total amount drawn by each Minister as travelling and halting allowances, since the beginning of the current financial year

Serial No.	Name of Ministers	Amount of travelling and halting allowances drawn		
		Rs	a.	p.
1	Shri Bishnuram Medhi, Chief Minister	5,576	0	0
2	Shri Motiram Bora, Minister-in-charge of Finance and Revenue, etc.	6,351	8	0
3	Shri Siddhinath Sarma, Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department, etc.	5,610	5	0
4	Shri Omco Kumar Das, Minister-in charge of Labour, etc.	5,724	5	0
5	Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, Minister-in-charge of Food, etc.	9,292	14	0
6	Shri Baidyanath Mookerjee, Minister-in-charge of Supply, etc.	8,093	10	0
7	Shri Rupnath Brahma, Minister-in-charge of Medical, etc.	5,392	7	0
8	Shri Ramnath Das, Minister-in-charge of Forests, etc.	4,946	11	0
9	Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy, Minister-in-charge of Excise, etc.	2,392	5	0
10	Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar, Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government, etc.	3,471	10	0
11	Shri Hareswar Das, Deputy Minister-in-charge of Revenue, etc.	651	0	0
12	Shri Purnananda Chetia, Deputy Minister-in-charge of Labour, etc.	2,814	11	0

(f), (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), & (v)—A Statement is given below—
Statement of total expenditure on Deputy Ministers and Ministers' residences, menials, furnitures and State cars from April, 1952 to January, 1953

Paid during the current financial year					Amount paid for furniture, crockeries, etc.	Amount paid for upkeep of State cars during the current financial year	Remarks
Municipal Tax	Electric bills	Sweepers' pay	Gardeners' pay	Chaprasis' pay			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
2,709 9 0	3,743 9 6	2,987 7 6	3,961 15 6	19,162 13 0	3,572 0 0	14,802 5 3	

Director of Publicity and Information, Assam and Publicity Officers**Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU** asked :

*132. (a) Will Government be pleased to state, year by year, the amount of travelling and halting allowances drawn by the present Director of Publicity and Information, Assam for the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53 (upto the end of December, 1952) ?

(b) Whether these travelling allowances were drawn by him for tours undertaken inside or outside the State of Assam ?

(c) What is the amount of travelling and halting allowances drawn by him for tours undertaken outside Assam during the years mentioned above ?

(d) What was the purpose for which he undertook tours outside the State (to be stated separately for each tour) ?

(e) In what way the Government or the State was benefited by these tours ?

*133. (a) Will Government be pleased to state who was the Director of Publicity and Information, Assam before the present incumbent was appointed ?

(b) How long the post of Director of Publicity and Information was lying vacant after the resignation submitted by the predecessor of the present Director ?

(c) Who manage the work of Director of Publicity and Information during that interim period ?

(d) What was the salary of the present Director of Publicity and Information before he was appointed as such ?

*134. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) What is the present strength of the staff in the office of the Director of Publicity and Information, Assam ?

(b) What is the total amount of expenditure incurred by the said Department in the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53 (upto the end of December 1952) ?

*135. (a) Is it a fact that the Publicity Officer used to travel by the Government cars (Publicity vans) while on tour ?

(b) If so, whether they tour at the expense of the Government and whether they draw any mileage allowance from the Government ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied :

132. (a)—Following amounts were drawn by the present Director in the capacity of Assistant Director, Deputy Director and Director of Information and Publicity for the years noted. No travelling allowance or daily allowance for December, 1952 has been drawn by him—

	T. A.	D. A.	Total
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1950-51 (As A. D. I. P.) ...	393 13 0	326 1 0	719 14 0
1951-52 (As A. D. I. P.) ...	992 14 0	672 3 0	1 665 1 0
1952-53 (upto October 1952) (As D. D. I. P.)	552 7 0	337 8 0	889 15 0
1952-53 (upto November 1952) (As D. I. P.)	...	28 2 0	28 2 0
Tot l ...	1,939 2 0	1,363 14 0	3,303 0 0

(b)—For both.

(c)—Noted below.

	T. A.	D. A.	Total
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1950-51 ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
1951-52 (As A. D. I. P.) ...	921 13 0	413 7 0	1,335 4 0
1952-53 (As D. D. I. P.) ...	474 6 0	53 7 0	527 13 0
Total ...	1,396 3 0	466 14 0	1,863 1 0

(d)—For the following :—

- (i) Study tour—To study the technique of publicity and propaganda works in Delhi, Simla and Bombay.
- (ii) To arrange depatch of Newsprint and to purchase at Calcutta some essential stores of the Publicity Department.
- (iii) Escorted a team of Naga boys and also took records, books, etc., to Bombay to prepare the commentary and provide background effects, etc., to the documentary Film "Glimpses of Assam".

(e)—As indicated in (d) above, in the interest of public service.

133. (a)—Shri Suresh Chandra Bhattacharjee till 15th September 1950 and then successive Secretaries, Publicity, were the *Ex-officio* part time Directors.

(b) & (c)—The predecessor did not resign, but the post of full time Director was abolished. The post was actually not lying vacant as the work as noted above was done by successive Secretaries of Publicity.

(d)—Rupees 400 per month as Assistant Director of Information and Publicity.*

134. (a)—

			Filled	Unfilled
Gazetted Officer	...	...	6	3
Subordinate staff	...	...	33	3
Ministrial staff	...	...	24	2
Menial	...	...	28	3
Total			91	11
Grand total			102	

Rs. a. p.

(b)—In 1950-51	...	2,06,211	0	0
1951-52	...	2,52,539	0	0
1952-53 (upto December 1952)	...	1,45,450	0	0

135. (a)—Yes.

(b)—They charge daily and not mileage allowance.

Apex Bank†**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

*136. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Apex Bank have since repaid the money advanced as loan by Government ?

(b) Has it paid any interest on the loan and if so, what is the amount ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied :

136. (a)—Out of the total sum of Rupees forty six lacs advanced by Government as loan a sum of Rupees two lacs has been repaid by the Bank and a sum amounting to Rupees ten lacs is being converted into Government's Shares in the Bank. Repayment of the balance is not due.

(b)—The Bank has paid up all interests due on the loan. Upto 30th September 1952, total payment by way of interest is Rs. 6,30,415.

Functions of Education Officer of the Co-operative Department†**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

*137. Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operative be pleased to state—

- (a) What are the functions of Education Officer of the Co-operative Department ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that he is supplied with a motor van to discharge his functions ?
- (c) For what actual use the motor van is intended and what is the average monthly expenditure on the vehicle ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied :

137. (a)—The functions of the Co-operative Education Officer are to assist the Registrar in the following branches of work:—

(a) Publicity and propaganda including preparation of Press Notes, Pamphlets, Leaflets, Posters, Charts, etc., (b) Preparation of annual reports of the Department and all other reports required to be sent to Reserve Bank of India, Central Government, other States and agencies, etc., (c) Compilation and scrutiny of Statistical data and informations, (d) Survey of Societies, (e) All translation works, (f) Drafting and amendment of Model byelaws of Societies, (g) Organisation of conferences, meetings and campaigns and (h) Other works allotted to him by Registrar from time to time.

(b)—Yes. But the van is also used by all headquarter superior staff of the four Departments, *viz.*, Co-operative, Sericulture and Weaving, Cottage Industries and Rural Development.

(c)—The motor van is used for tours and propaganda purposes by the Officers mentioned at (b) above and also by Officers of the Reserve Bank of India while on tour for enquiry and survey works in this State. The average monthly expenditure for the van is Rs. 438 only.

Co-operative College†**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

*138. Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operative be pleased to state—

- (a) When was the Co-operative College started in this State and for how long it functioned ?

†Questions were put by Shri Radha Charan Choudhury on authorisation.

- (b) What was the total number of students year by year that read in this College ?
- (c) Why was it started at Missamari and what is the total amount of money that Government have spent on it ?
- (d) Is it a fact that the office of the College is still functioning at Missamari and if so, what are the reasons for not closing down the office ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied :

138. (a)—The Co-operative College started on 24th May 1948 and functioned till 30th November 1951.

(b)—During the year 1948 only preliminary works such as preparation of syllabus, preparation of notes for lectures, selection of books, etc., were undertaken. Following are the number of students who read in this college :—

1949—Ninety one in two batches.

1950—Two departmental officials.

1951—Eleven officers newly recruited by the Co-operative Department.

(c)—The college was first started at Gauhati and was later on removed to Missamari on 4th January 1950 for accommodation difficulties and for avoiding high expenditure on that account. Amounts of money spent on the College year by year are as follows :—

Rs.

1948-49	...	...	...	4,684
1949-50	...	...	...	37,174
1950-51	...	...	...	13,967
1951-52	...	...	...	6,207

(d)—Only the services of one lower division *cum* typist assistant is being retained who is attached to the office of the Superintendent, Missamari Co-operative Colony for keeping the records up-to-date and for attending to correspondence in connection therewith. On re-establishment of the College in a smaller scale as is intended by Government, the services of this Assistant *cum* typist will be retransferred to the institution.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : With regard to (a), is the College in existence now ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) : It is already replied, Sir.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Whether any teacher is there in the College ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister): Only one typist *cum* clerk has been maintained.

Assam Co-operative Silk House

†**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

*139. Will the Minister of Co-operative be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the accounts of the Assam Co-operative Silk House are audited yearly ?
- (b) If not, for how many years these accounts have not been audited ?
- (c) What is the reason for not auditing the accounts annually ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied :

139. (a)—No.

(b)—Since 1947-48.

(c)—For extremely voluminous and complicated nature of accounts (which necessitated engagement of a Chartered Accountant), inadequacy and other pre-occupations of the departmental audit staff. The Chartered Accountant is continuing his work.

Dacoity in North-East Frontier Agency Office at Margherita

†**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

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

- (a) Whether he is aware of any dacoity committed in the middle of last year at Margherita at North-East Frontier Agency Office ?
- (b) Whether the Central or the State Government is responsible for the guarding of the frontiers and security of the Margherita area ?

- (c) How many guards were on duty at the frontier out-post on that day ?
- (d) Whether the Police have been able to trace the dacoits and if not, what steps have been taken to trace them ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that a jeep of an officer there was used by the dacoits ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

140. (a)—Yes. The dacoity was committed at Tirap Frontier Headquarter 7 miles east from Ledo out-post and 12 miles east from Margherita Police Station on 17th July 1952 at 11-30 p. m. by persons suspected to be Kachins from Burma.

(b)—The Central Government are responsible for guarding the frontiers and the State Government are responsible for maintenance of law and order of the Margherita area.

(c)—One Head constable and 7 constables were engaged at Tirap Gate on the Ledo Road about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the place of occurrence. One section and 18 men of Assam Rifles were posted at Khatangpani and Hellgate respectively and the staff of the Land Customs were at the custom gate near Hellgate.

(d)—The case is still under investigation and the Police has been pursuing the available clues.

(e)—Yes.

Shri Bhola Bora, Sub-Inspector of Nalbari Police Station.

†**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

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

- (a) Whether he has lately received any representation from the people of Nalbari against Shri Bhola Bora, Sub-Inspector of Nalbari Police Station ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that during his term of office crimes in the said Thana have increased ?
- (c) Whether the Chief Minister received any wire on 6th February 1952 from Bahjani alleging merciless assault by Police on 2nd February 1952 on an innocent man of Bahjani and in the presence of the said officer ?
- (d) Whether any enquiry was instituted into this matter and if so, what is the result ?

†Questions were put by Shri Radha Charan Choudhury on authorisation.

- (e) Whether it is a fact that on 13th March 1951 the said officer-in-charge ordered a lathi charge on people assembling to take yarn from a shop and manhandled some local gentlemen and arrested the local Secretary of the Socialist Party although the latter was not present on the spot?
- (f) Whether any enquiry into the incident was made and if so, what is the result?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that on 21st January 1952 he arrested one Peer Baux, an active Socialist Worker and interned him in his home?
- (h) If so, why?
- (i) Whether it is a fact that protest against this action was lodged with the Superintendent of Police, Kamrup and that no action on it was taken?
- (j) Whether any deputation of Nalbari Public waited on the Chief Minister in this connection and what action has been taken on their representation?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

141. (a)—No.

(b)—During his term of office since 1950 onwards only cases of dacoity showed an increase in 1951-52 but other crimes have decreased. Cases of dacoity have also decreased since the last anti-dacoity operations.

(c)—No such telegram nor any report of assault on the dates mentioned by the hon. Member was received.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e) & (f)—No; but the shopkeeper instituted a case at Nalbari Police Station under section 143/448/117 Indian Penal Code against Shri Hareswar Barman and others and the arrest was made in that connection and charge sheet was submitted after full enquiry. The case, however, ended in acquittal on 4th June 1952.

(g)—During investigation of case No.11 dated 22nd January 1952 under section 395/397 Indian Penal Code, Peer Baux was called to Thana on suspicion and questioned. He was neither arrested nor home-interned.

(h)—Does not arise.

(i)—On receipt of a protest the Superintendent of Police, Kamrup held an enquiry and found the report exaggerated, and found during the enquiry, the Sub-Inspector was

(j)—No.

Shri PRABHAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI : Is it not a fact that this Officer-in-charge has been doing yeoman services for maintaining the law and orders in his areas ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : It is unfortunate that the Leader of the Opposition has put so many Questions, but he is absent. In future, I hope, he will make it a point to be present in the House. I think, it will be conveyed to him duly and it is expected that the responsibility undertaken be discharged duly.

Arrest of Jonab Sahadat Ali Mandal

†**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

*142. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) When was Jonab Sahadat Ali arrested and what was the original charge against him ?
- (b) What was the reason for Government for not pursuing this charge ?
- (c) When was this charge dropped ?
- (d) When was he released ?
- (e) Whether Government possess any concrete evidence to justify his continued detention ?
- (f) How many letters he is alleged to have written to Pakistan have been seized ?
- (g) Whether these letters were shown to any handwriting expert and if so what was his opinion ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

142. (a)—On 15th July 1952 under Section 8(B) of the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Act.

(b)—Government considered that the evidence was of a nature which could not be disclosed in open Court in the interest of the security of the State.

(c) & (d)—On 1st September 1952 but he was re-arrested for detention under the Preventive Detention Act until he was released by an order of the Supreme Court on 27th February 1953.

(e)—Yes.

(f) & (g)—It would not be in the public interest to disclose these details.

†Questions were put by Shri Radha Charan Choudhury on authorization.

**Number of Dacoities detected or reported in the Districts of
Kamrup and Darrang**

†**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

*143. Will Government be pleased to refer to the interim replies given to Unstarred Question No.346 (a)—(d) asked by the Questioner in the Assembly on the 20th September, 1952 and supply information with regard to the following questions:—

(a) How many cases of dacoities were detected or reported in Kamrup and Darrang districts during the period from January to August, 1952 ?

(b) How many persons were arrested in the anti-dacoity campaign ?

(c) How many cases were instituted in this connection and what was the number of persons involved ?

(d) How many were found guilty ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

	Districts	
	Kamrup	Darrang
143. (a)—Dacoity cases detected during January to August, 1952.	29	17+3 pending investigation.
Dacoity cases reported during January to August, 1952.	67	52.
(b)—Number of persons arrested in the anti-dacoity campaign.	224	112.
(c)—Number of cases instituted.	67	15.
Number of persons involved	300	63.
(d)—Number of persons found guilty.	126	Cases sub-judice in court.

**Anti-Terrorist campaign in Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Kamrup and
Darrang districts**

†**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

*144. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How much money from Exchequer has been spent for the anti-terrorist campaign in Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Kamrup and Darrang districts ?

- (b) What was the time taken to round up the terrorist and anti-social elements ?
- (c) What is the actual number of Armed Police Force employed for this purpose ?
- (d) What is the actual number of persons arrested and how many of them belong to the R. C. P. I. ?
- (e) How many cases were instituted against such terrorists and what is the result ?
- (f) How many persons were detained under the Preventive Detention Act or of the Similar Act for this purpose ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that quite a good number of Socialists were arrested and detained in this connection ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that in spite of representation being made by the Chairman and General Secretary of the Party, they were not released ?
- (i) Whether any concrete proof about their association with the terrorists was there and if so, why no cases were instituted against them ?
- (j) Whether the situation has been brought under complete control now ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied.

144. (a)—Rs.95,482 in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur Districts.
Rs.13,933 in Darrang District.
Rs.1,56,999 in Kamrup District.

(b)—From September, 1950 to January, 1951 in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur Districts. From January to June 1951 in Kamrup District. From April to June 1951 in Darrang District.

(c)—Four platoons of Assam Rifles, 11 platoons of Assam Police Battalion and 2 platoons of District Armed Police were used in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur Districts. 5 sections of District Armed Police and one platoon of Assam Rifles were used in Darrang District. 6½ platoons of Assam Police Battalion, 3½ sections of Railway Protection Police, 5 sections of District Armed Police were used in Kamrup District.

(d)—824 persons were arrested in Sibsagar-Lakhimpur Districts of whom 785 belonged to the R. C. P. I.
204 persons were arrested in Darrang all of whom were R.C.P.I. workers.

1,756 persons were arrested in Kamrup District of whom 1,742 were R.C.P.I. workers.

(e)—Six cases were instituted in Darrang District out of which 5 ended in conviction and one pending trial.

Thirty-three cases were instituted in Lakhimpur District out of which 19 convicted, 2 acquitted, 5 withdrawn, 2 filed, 2 submitted in final report and 3 pending trial.

Twenty-seven cases were instituted in Sibsagar District, of which 11 convicted, 1 acquitted, 12 submitted in final report and 3 pending trial.

Fourty-one cases were instituted in Kamrup District of which 16 convicted, 9 acquitted, 13 returned in final report and 3 pending trial.

(f)—One in Lakhimpur District.

Thirty-five in Sibsagar District.

Twenty-four in Kamrup District.

None in Darrang District.

All were detained under Preventive Detention Act. All are now released from detention.

(g)—No. Only 3 persons arrested during operations in North Kamrup as suspected R.C.P.I. contacts claimed to be Socialists and were released immediately on verification of their party affiliation.

Two other active R.C.P.I. workers claimed to be Socialists, but one of them was prosecuted under Cr. L. A. Act and was convicted. The other was interned under the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Act.

(h)—Does not arise.

(i)—Does not arise.

(j)—Yes.

Registration of Amtola Trading Co-operative

†Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

*145. Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operative be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Amtola Trading Co-operative in the South bank of Gauhati was registered during the time it functioned ?
- (b) Whether Government allowed it to deal in controlled commodities like textile goods, yarn, kerosene, sugar, etc., and if so, on what basis ?
- (c) What was the membership of this Society in the year 1950-51 and 1951-52 ?
- (d) Whether the said Society since its liquidation has returned the capital (share money) and any profit to the shareholders and if so, to how many of such shareholders ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied.

145. (a)—No.

(b)—It is reported that an organisation under the name and style of "The Amtola Trading Co-operative" was given quota of controlled commodities by the Gauhati Central Trading Co-operative under instructions from the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup.

(c)—As the Society was not registered, Government have no information.

(d)—Does not arise in view to the replies to Questions (a) and (c) above.

Officials of the Reserve Bank of India

†Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

*146 Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operative be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any officials from the Reserve Bank of India lately inspected and reported on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Assam ?

(b) Whether Government propose to lay on the table a copy of each of their reports and comments, if any ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied.

146 (a)—Yes. Shri K. Madhava Das, a Research Officer of the Reserve Bank of India visited Assam in March 1952 with a view to study the Co-operative movement in Assam and for that purpose inspected a few Societies. He submitted a report to the Reserve Bank of India, a copy of which was sent to Registrar of Co-operative Societies by the Reserve Bank of India for his views and comments ; stating that the report does not necessarily represent the views of the Reserve Bank and that their final opinion will be communicated only after receipt of Registrar's comments.

(b)—Since the report in question is under consideration of the Reserve Bank and that the final report is not yet sent by them Government are not in a position to place it before the House.

Number of Co-ordination Boards in the State

Shri PRABHAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI asked :

*147. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Co-ordination Boards in the State and their functions ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the average expenditure incurred in a sitting of such Board ?

(c) What improvements have been made to the administration by setting up such Board ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied.

147. (a)—Seventeen. As regards the functions of these Boards the Member is referred to clause 4 of the Rules framed under Section 122 (1) of the Assam Rural Panchayat Act, 1948 as published under Notification No.DP.7/49/26, dated 5th February, 1949 in the *Assam Gazette*, dated 9th February, 1949.

(b)—Information has been called for from the District Officers.

(c)—The setting up of these Boards has resulted in better administration of the rural development projects due to closer co-operation and co-ordination of the various departments concerned and their officers in the district and subdivisional levels.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

Rukni and Harang bridges

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINHA asked :

109. Will Government be pleased to state whether the repair works of two bridges one on Rukni river, e.g., Rukni bridge on Kabuganj-Palonghat Road and the other Harang bridge on Bor-khola-Kalain Road will be taken up this year ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

109.—The bridges have been damaged badly and require reconstruction. At present only minor repairs are being done. If funds permit, the works of reconstruction will be taken up during 1953-54.

Number of Industrial Disputes disposed of by the Industrial Tribunal

Shri BISWADEV SARMA asked :

110. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Industrial Disputes disposed of by the Industrial Tribunal, Assam in the year 1952 ?

(b) How many cases are pending before the Tribunal and for how long ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) replied :

110. (a)—Twelve cases were disposed of in 1952.

(b)—A statement showing the number of cases referred to and those disposed of by the Tribunal and also the number of cases pending before the Tribunal is given below.

A LIST SHOWING THE NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES
DISPOSED OF BY THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL, ASSAM IN
1952 AND NUMBER OF CASES PENDING BY THE
END OF 1952

Serial No.	File No.	Subject	Date of reference to I. T.	Date of publishing Award	Remarks
1	GLR.309/51	Discharge of Shri P. B. Datta, Hatikhi- ra Tea Estate.	7th Novem- ber 1951.	17th March 1952.	
2	GLR.329/51	Dispute between the Dibrugarh Press Karmachari San- gha and the Dib- rugarh Press Ow- ners Association.	20th No- vem b e r 1951.	14th Feb- r u a r y 1952.	
3	GLR.292/51	Dismissal and evic- tion of Sukrapan Tanti, etc. of Duk- lingia Tea Estate.	21st Decem- ber 1951.	28th April 1952.	
4	GLR.314/51	Dismissal of Ruchi Tanti.	26th De- cemb e r 1951.	27th Feb- r u a r y 1952.	
5	GLR.269/51	Dismissal of Rages- war Durga, etc. of Rangagora Tea Estate.	12th Janua- ry 1952.	20th May 1952.	
6	GLR.295/50	Dismissal of Nandi- ram Bora.	5th March 1952.	21st June 1952.	
7	GLR.33/52	Jorhat Electric Sup- ply, Limited.	24th March 1952.	Being pub- l i s h e d. Disposed of in 1953.	
8	GLR.310/51	Discharge of K. L. Basak, Pollurband Tea Estate.	14th May 1952.	21st August 1952.	
9	GLR.31/52	Discharge of Lakhes- war Bora, Jagduar Tea Estate.	18th March 1952.	25th July 1952.	

Serial No.	File No.	Subject	Date of reference to I. T.	Date of publishing Award	Remarks
10	GLR.352/51	Rice cut compensa- tion.	28th April 1952.	4th August 1952.	
11	GLR.75/52	Strike at Doorga- khoona Tea Esta- te.	21st May 1952.	2nd August 1952.	
12	GLR.59/51	Discharge of Mola- ram Neog, Bogi- dhola Tea Estate.	10th June 1952.	13th Sep- tem b e r 1952.	
13	GLR.59/51PF	Discharge of N. L. Datta, Sudder Workshop, Jorhat Tea Company, Limited.	18th Sep- tem b e r 1952.	...	Pending.
14	GLR.59/51	Dispute between the female workers and the Manage- ment of Negheri- ting T. E.	18th Sep- tem b e r 1952.	...	Pending.
15	GLR.343/51	Discharge of Adya- nath Sarma of Annapurna Rice Mills, Gauhati.	28th July 1952.	...	Pending.
16	GLR.353/51	Dispute between the management and workers of the Mills at Gauhati.	24th July 1952.	...	Pending.
17	GLR.61/51	Panbarry T. E. ...	11th August 1952.	13th Octo- ber 1952.	
18	GLR.210/52	Dispute in the Khe- mani Rice Mills, Tinsukia.	11th August 1952.	Being pub- lished. Disposed of in 1953.	
19	GLR.126/52	Dismissal of J. K. Paul Chaudhury, Chota Tingrai T. E.	14th August 1952.	...	Pending.
20	GLR.226/52	Dismissal of Karam- sing Gowala, Hau- tley T. E.	12th Sep- temb e r 1952.	25th Febru- ary 1952.	

Serial No.	File No.	Subject	Date of reference to I T.	Date of publishing Award	Remarks
21	GLR.122/52	Dismissal of K. C. Bora, Kathalguri T. E.	19th September 1952.	...	Pending.
22	GLR.116/52	Dispute between the workers and the management of L. B. Alluminium Industry, Bongai-gaon.	23rd September 1952.	...	Pending.
23	GLR.228/52	Dismissal of B. K. Roy, Sanker T. E.	8th October 1952.	...	Pending.
24	GLR.249/52	Dispute at Harchura T. E.	8th October 1952.	...	Pending.
25	GLR.269/52	Dispute in Itakhoolie T. E.	13th October 1952.	...	Pending.
26	GLR.287/50	Discharge of coal handling labourers at Patigaon.	22nd November 1952.	...	Pending.
27	GLR.282/52	Dismissal of K. C. Bora, Teok T. E.	27th December 1952.	...	Pending.
28	GLR.303/52	Dismissal of Bankim Ch. Sarma Roy.	12th November 1952.	...	Pending.
29	GLR.346/52	Regarding closure of Jalan Nagar T. E., Borbheta T. E., etc.	16th December 1952.	...	Pending.
30	GLR.225/49	Regarding Bonus of staff and labourers of Kalaincherra T. E., Chorgola T. E., Binnakandi T. E., etc.	18th September 1952.	...	Pending.
31	GLR.283/52	Dismissal of Rankia Tanti, Bordubi T. E.	19th January 1953.	...	Pending

Serial No.	File No.	Subject	Date of reference to I. T.	Date of publishing Award	Remarks
32	GLR.349/52 PF II	Dismissal of H. N. Phukan of Rajabari T. E.	22nd January 1953.	...	Pendinga
33	GLR.349/52 PF.I	Dismissal of B. P. Sen Gupta, Deodham T. E.	22nd January 1953.	..	Pending
34	GLR.26/53	Retrenchment of tea garden labourers of Dullabcherra T. E.	21st February 1953.	...	Pending.

Mohamadia Hotel on the Station Road at Karimganj

Maulana ABDUL JALIL asked :

111. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that premises known as Mohamadia Hotel on the Station Road at Karimganj was burnt down during the communal disturbances in February, 1950 ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the said premises after they were rebuilt were requisitioned for Fire Brigade ?
- (c) Whether the District Minority Board, Cachar recommended handing over of the said premises to the original owner of the Mohamadia Hotel ?
- (d) If so, will Government be pleased to state why the recommendation of the District Minority Board, Cachar has not been acted upon ?

Shri MOTILAL BORA (Minister) replied :

111. (a)—Yes, the premises were partly damaged by fire during the communal disturbances of 1950.

(b)—Yes. Requisition notice was served after the houses had been leased out by the owners to one Bhupesh Chandra Singha in the absence of the former occupant, viz., the owner of the Hotel, but possession could not be taken by Government.

(c)—The District Minority Board recommended that if the houses be not required for Fire Brigade for which they were requisitioned they might be handed over to the owner of the Hotel.

(d)—All action in the matter was stayed by an injunction from the Civil Court in which the tenant Bhupesh Chandra Singha had filed a suit.

Maulana ABDUL JALIL : কয় বছর fact নহী হয় কি মহকুমা হাকিম নে ১৮ মার্চ ১৯৫২ তারিখ কোয় order cancel কৰ দিয়া পা ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : I have not been able to follow.

Mr. SPEAKER : আপ হিন্দীমে সমঝা দীজিয়ে।

Maulana ABDUL JALIL : কয় বছর fact নহী কি ভোপেশচন্দ্র নে Government কে পাগ appeal কী পা ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Government have no information.

Maulana ABDUL JALIL : গত ২ চেপ্তেম্বর ১৯৫২ তারিখে গভর্ণমেন্টের কাছে যে এপিল করা হয়েছিল, সেটা গভর্ণমেন্ট কি করেছেন ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : গভর্ণমেন্ট কি করবেন ? সেটা Civil Court এ পাঠিয়ে দিয়েছেন। যা কিছু দরকার করব।

Mr. SPEAKER : Can the Subdivisional Office cancel it ? It is the Judge who can do it.

Maulana ABDUL JALIL : করিমগঞ্জ মহকুমা হাকিম Government Pleader এর মতামত নিয়া injunction order cancel করেছিলেন কি ?

Mr. SPEAKER : যহ বাত Sub-judice হয়। ইয়ে আপ পুছ নহী সৰতে।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Yes, Sir.

Road from Palonghat to Amraghat

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINHA asked :

112. (a) Do Government propose to take up the road from Palonghat to Amraghat only 4 miles from Silchar Local Board for public interest ?

(b) If so, when ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

112. (a)—No. This was not recommended by the last Assam Roads Communication Board to be taken up by Public Works Department. There is no proposal at present to take up the road.

(b)—This will be put up before the next meeting of the Assam Roads Communication Board for their consideration.

Maternity and Child-Welfare Clinics and Centres in Assam

Mrs. USHA BARTHAHAKUR asked :

113. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Maternity and Child-Welfare Clinics in the State ?

(b) Whether there is provision for confinement beds in these clinics ?

(c) How many maternity home are in the State ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that there is a maternity home in the Nowgong Red Cross Centre with twenty-three beds ?

(e) Do Government propose to give some grants to the society ?

114. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of maternity and child-welfare centres in the rural areas of the State ?

(b) Are Government aware that these institutions are rendering splendid services to the mothers of the villages ?

(c) Do Government propose to take up all these institutions ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

113. (a)—4 (four).

(b)—No.

(c)—None under the Public Health and Medical at present.

(d)—Yes, with 13 beds.

(e)—Yes, if fund permits.

Mrs. USHA BARTHAKEUR : With regard to the reply to (b), do not Government think that there is need for making provision for confinement beds in these clinics ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : Yes, Sir, there is need, no doubt.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

114. (a)—Four (with Government help).

(b)—Yes.

(c)—There is no such proposal at present.

Mrs. USHA BARTHAKEUR : May I know the names of the villages where these maternity and child welfare centres have been opened ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) :

(1) Jharobari Maternity and child welfare centre.

(2) Kitora Maternity and child welfare centre.

(3) Rampur Maternity and child welfare centre.

(4) Nalbari Maternity and child welfare centre.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : With regard to the reply to (c), may I know the reason why there is no such proposal at present ? Is it due to the financial stringency or it is not considered necessary ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): There is the financial aspect of the matter which should be taken into consideration. As a matter of fact we are trying to draw up some schemes for opening maternity centres in different rural areas. We are thinking of sending some schemes to the Centre for rendering us financial assistance.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli: Will Government be pleased to state how much money will be required to take up one centre?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, there is also the question of equitable distribution of these centres. The four centres referred to practically fall within a certain area. Subject to this condition of equitable distribution amongst different areas, the case of each centre may be examined on merits.

Hostels of Cotton College, Gauhati

Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI asked:

115. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what improvements have been done in the hostels of the Cotton College since March, 1952?

(b) Do Government propose to construct a new building for the Cotton College library in view of the deteriorating condition of the present buildings?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied:

115. (a)—The following measures have been taken:—

(1) Diversion of latrine water through a pit and underground pipes about 300 long.

(2) Two ring-wells fitted with pumps and reservoirs in the hostel compound, one over-head tank and two sinks fitted in the College canteen. A tube-well is also under construction.

(3) (i) Dighli Tank hostel with accommodation of 96 students has been started from August 1952.

(ii) The departmental hostel attached to C. M. Hostel has been thoroughly repaired; it now accommodates 18 students.

(iii) Another thatched house has been provided with C. I. sheets and its doors and windows repaired.

(iv) A thatched house attached to the Cosmopolitan Hostel has also been repaired for accommodation of students.

(v) One two-storeyed hostel is under construction.

(4) The drains are being kept clean with the help of Sweepers as far as practicable.

(b)—No, but the present building is being extended to meet the urgent needs of the College library.

Newspaper Report re High official falsely representing to be the holder of a foreign Ph D. Degree

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

116. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the editorial in the "Shillong Times" dated 5th July 1952 and the news item in the 'Natun Assamiya' dated 7th July 1952 regarding a high official falsely representing himself to be the holder of a foreign Ph D. Degree ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken to draw up departmental proceedings against or to prosecute him criminally ?

(c) If not, do Government propose to take action on the lines indicated ?

(d) Are Government aware that the same official is alleged to have drawn double Travelling Allowance for the same journey ?

(e) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether any departmental proceedings were drawn up against him in this connection ?

(f) If not, do Government propose to do so ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

116. (a)—No. But the facts were brought to Government's notice.

(b) & (c)—Government made a full enquiry and was satisfied that there was no case for criminal prosecution or drawing up departmental proceedings, but the officer has been reprimanded and severely warned ?

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The officer was warned and ordered to refund the excess amount drawn.

(f)—Does not arise.

North Lakhimpur Cloth and Yarn dealers Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd.

Shri SARVESWAR BORUWA asked :

117. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) If it is a fact that the North Lakhimpur Cloth and Yarn Dealers Co-operative Wholesale Society, Limited and 18 others similar Co-operative Cloth and Yarn Dealers Wholesale Societies are under liquidation ?

- (b) If it is a fact that a Special Officer was appointed as Liquidator of those Societies with his headquarters at Gauhati ?
- (c) If it is a fact that the said post of a Special Officer has since been abolished and the work of liquidation of those societies has been entrusted to an Auditor of Co-operative Societies in charge of region ?
- (d) Where is the present headquarters of the liquidator ?
- (e) What progress has been made in the liquidation of the 19 Societies since they were ordered to go under liquidation ?
- (f) If it is fact that a claim of about Rs.16,000 against Gauhati Firm who acted as Yarn Procuring Agents preferred by the North Lakhimpur Cloth and Yarn Dealers Co-operative Wholesale Society, Limited, is about to be barred by limitation ?
- (g) If so, what steps if any, the Official Liquidator is taking for the recovery of the amount before the claim is barred ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied :

117. (a)—The North Lakhimpur Cloth and Yarn Dealers Co-operative Wholesale Society, and 16 other similar Co-operative Societies are under Liquidation.

(b)—Yes, but excepting the Dhubri Cloth and Yarn Dealers Co-operative Wholesale Society, Limited.

(c)—Yes. But Government have decided recently to relieve the Auditor from this duty and to entrust the work to a Deputy Auditor instead.

(d)—Gauhati is the headquarters of the Auditor working so long as Liquidator for those Societies in addition to his duties as Auditor but the permanent headquarters of his successor will be at Shillong.

(e)—Assets to the extent of Rs.3,01,779-2-4 has been realised amicably and by legal measures inclusive of the amount of Rs.11,998-6-6 of the North Lakhimpur Cloth and Yarn Dealers Wholesale Society, Limited. In the case of some of these societies cent per cent. of the share money and deposit have been already paid.

(f)—North Lakhimpur Cloth and Yarn Dealers Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited used to receive yarns through Messrs. Lunkaran Sohnlall who were the Procuring Agents. The total claim against this firm was originally Rs.17,852-9-3 in respect of 13 claims. Three claims were settled on payment of Rs 4,556-11-6. As regards the other claims, the suppliers denied their liability stating that the Society did not lodge their claims with the carriers (Railways) within the statutory period. As the claims appeared to the Liquidator to be unsound he did not think it desirable to seek for compensation in the open Court as that might entail further financial loss to the Society. The Liquidator has been directed to take legal advice on the question for legal action and other steps for realisation of the dues.

(g)—Does not arise in view of reply to (f) above.

Shri SARVESWAR BORUWA: With regard to (f), the reply states that the Society did not lodge their claims with the carriers (Railways) within the statutory period. Is not the Hon'ble Minister aware that the delivery of the Railway receipts had to be taken from the Steamar Company and not from the Railways as Railways are far away from the North Lakhimpur Subdivision?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister): The point is that the Society did not lodge their claims with the carriers. The word "Railways" might be a mistake.

Amtola Primary Trading Co-operative

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY asked:

118. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the "Amtola Primary Trading Co-operative" under Kamrup district was a registered Co-operative?
- (b) How many shareholders formed the said Co-operative?
- (c) Whether Government supplied Textile goods to the said Co-operative?
- (d) If so, what quantity was supplied to the said Primary Trading Co-operative?
- (e) Whether the said Primary Trading Co-operative incurred loss or profit?
- (f) Whether Government took any action to audit the accounts of the said Primary Trading Co-operative?
- (g) If not, why not?

QUESTIONS

- (h) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to audit the accounts of the said Primary Trading Co-operative and distribute the share-money and the profit as the case may be, to each of the shareholders ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied :

118. (a)—No.

(b)—As the Society was not registered Government have no information.

(c)—It is reported that an organisation under the name and style "The Amtola Trading Co-operative" was given quotas of controlled commodities by the Gauhati Central Trading Co-operative under instructions from Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup.

(d)—Yarn three bales and cloth seven bales approximately.

(e), (f), (g) and (h)—Do not arise in view of the replies to questions (a) and (b) above.

Information about the devastating effects of storm on the 13th March, 1953

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the House to an important matter. Perhaps all hon. Members know that on the 13th instant a very great storm passed over almost all the districts of our State and it has caused great devastation. We, the Members here, have received telegrams and letters regarding all these devastations, and I believe Government must have received similar telegrams and letters and we do believe that Government have possibly already taken necessary steps regarding this. The only point we desire is that we expect to have a statement to that effect from the Government side, in that case we shall be in a position to inform our Constituencies regarding the steps already taken or the steps that are going to be taken by Government in this regard.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful to my Friend, Mr. Phookan for his kindly mentioning this matter. As a matter of fact, I feel Sir, it is the general sense of the House that a devastation of a great magnitude has occurred and a disaster has overtaken our State. One of the hon. Members has also put a question about this.

We have already asked the District officers to supply necessary informations to Government about this matter. All the informations have not come to the hands of Government as yet. Although some informations have been received by Government, they are not complete. Therefore, Sir, if I make a statement at this stage, it would not be possible for me to give a true picture of the situation. So if you give me some time on another day, *i. e.*, on Saturday, I shall be able to make a statement regarding this.

Mr. SPEAKER : You will be given 10 minutes.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Thank you Sir. I shall not take more than 10 minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER : As the Hon'ble Minister has given an assurance, I think, we can wait till Saturday.

GRANT No. 13

(29.—Police)

Mr. SPEAKER : Now Grant No. 13. Shri Bishnuram Medhi to move.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,59,82,700 (Rupees one crore, fifty-nine lakhs, eighty-two thousand and seven hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head, "29.—Police".

Mr. SPEAKER : The motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,59,82,700 (Rupees one crore, fifty-nine lakhs, eighty-two thousand and seven hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head, "29.—Police".

Mr. SPEAKER : I find Mr. Das and Mr. Goswami are absent. About the Cut Motion No. 4 standing in the name of Shri Sarju Prasad Singh, the language of the motion is unparliamentary and ironical as such I expunge the Motion.

As regards the other Cut Motions standing in names of more than one Member, any of you can move, the rest may speak on them.

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MONDAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,59,82,700 under grant No. 13, Major head—29.—Police, at page 66 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,59,82,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই আজি এই কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱৰ দ্বাৰা, জনসাধাৰণ তথা গাৰলীয়া বাইজৰ ওপৰত আমাৰ পুলিচ বাহিনীয়ে কিদৰে জোৰ-জুলুম চলাবলৈ আৰম্ভ কৰিছে, তাৰ বিষয়ে কিছু কম।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপোনাৰ সময় ৮ মিনিট।

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MONDAL : হব। গোৱালপাৰা জিলাৰ লক্ষীপুৰ থানাত আজি বহুত দিনৰ পৰা কিছুমান দুৰ্বৃত্তই অবাধে চুৰী ডকাইতি আৰু লুট-পাট আদি কৰি মানুহৰ মাজত অশান্তিৰ সৃষ্টি কৰি মানুহ বিলাকক জুলুম কৰি আহিছে। -এই বিলাকৰ ভিতৰত কেইজনমান মানুহ চুৰী ডকাইতি সংক্ৰান্ত ব্যাপাৰিত বিশেষ ভাবে সংশ্লিষ্ট থকা সত্ত্বেও স্থানীয় পুলিচে প্ৰতিকাৰ-মূলক কোনো ব্যৱস্থা লোৱা নাই। সিহঁতক পৰোক্ষভাবে সমৰ্থনহে কৰি গৈ আছে। উক্ত এলাকাত চুৰী বজাৰত প্ৰতিপত্তি-শালী এজন মহাজন শ্ৰীৰামেশ্বৰ পাণ্ডে পুলিচৰ সাহায্যকাৰী বুলি পৰিচিত। এই মানুহ বিলাক ইপিনে চোৰ আৰু ডকাইতৰ সাহায্যকাৰী ও অংশীদাৰ বুলি জনা যায়। এই বাৰ্তা কেইবাবাৰেও কৰ্তৃপক্ষক জনোৱা সত্ত্বেও আজিলৈকে কোনো প্ৰতিকাৰ হোৱা নাই বৰং এই দুৰ্বৃত্ত বিলাকৰ অত্যাচাৰ বাঢ়িছেহে। যোৱা ১৯৫২ চনৰ জুন মাহত লক্ষীপুৰ মেচপাৰা 'কৰ্ট অব ইষ্টেট' নামেৰে শ্ৰীমধুসূদন শৰ্মা মহাশয়ৰ ঘৰত এটা ডাঙৰ ডকাইতি হৈছিল। এই ডকাইতি সংক্ৰান্ত ব্যাপাৰিত সংশ্লিষ্ট থকা কেইটামান মানুহৰ বিষয়ে স্থানীয় জনসাধাৰণে পুলিচক যুক্তিৰে সৈতে আয়েনসেম, কেফাত ও সেফাত সেমক সন্দেহ কৰে পুলিচে নিৰপৰাৱী কেইটামান মানুহৰ লগতে আয়েন সেমক গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰে। ডকাইতিৰ লগত জড়িত থকা শ্ৰীৰামেশ্বৰ পাণ্ডেৰ ভিতৰুৱা মন্বন্তৰত কেফাত সেম আৰু সেফাত সেমক পুলিচে arrest নকৰিলে। সেই সময়ত জনসাধাৰণে ওপৰৱালা কৰ্তৃপক্ষলৈ জনায়, আৰু বিৰাণ সভাৰ সভ্য হিচাবে তাৰ নকল মোক দিয়ে।

কিন্তু পুলিচে ভাবিলে মোৰ নেতৃত্বই উক্ত এলাকাৰ জন সাধাৰণ ওপৰৱালা কৰ্তৃপক্ষৰ ওচৰত অভিযোগ পঠাব ধৰিছে। গতিকে উক্ত অভিযোগৰ পৰা মোৰ বিৰুদ্ধে পুলিচ আৰু ডকাইত দলে এটা মিছা ঘটনা সজায় যে, মই যেন এই ৰাষ্ট্ৰ বিৰোধী কিছুমান খবৰ পাকিস্থানলৈ লিখিছিলো আৰু লক্ষীপুৰ পোষ্ট অফিচত চোৰ নেকাতক চিঠি দিবলৈ পঠাইছিলো। তাক দি এই মিছাসাক্ষী দি মোক অসম জন নিৰপত্তা আইনৰ ৮(৭) পৰিশোধত ধাৰা মতে বন্দি কৰি জেলত দিয়ে। মোৰ ঘৰ থানাতলাচী কৰাৰ সময়ত জনসাধাৰণে দিয়া অভিযোগ দৰখাস্ত বিলাক পুলিচে জব্দ কৰিলে।

এই ক্ষেত্ৰত আকৌ কব খোজো যে মোৰ হাতৰ লিখাৰ লগত সেই চিঠিৰ আখৰবোৰৰ মিল আছে নে নাই বা Hand writing expertৰ দ্বাৰা কোনো প্ৰমাণ নকৰাকৈ এজন আইন মান্যকাৰী নাগৰিকৰ ওপৰত এই অন্যায়, কংগ্ৰেছ আমোলৰ পুলিচ জুলুমৰ এবিধ নমুনা। মই বিৰোধী দলৰ সদস্য হিচাবে মোৰ ওপৰত এনে অন্যায় বা শাস্তিৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছিল নে নাই তাৰ বিবেচনাৰ ভাৰ আপোনালোকৰ ওপৰতেই দিলোঁ। যদি প্ৰমাণ হৈ থাকে তেন্তে মোৰ অন্য শাস্তি ব্যৱস্থা নকৰি হত্যা কৰাই উচিত আছিল।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই বিলাক অত্যাচাৰ আৰু অবিচাৰ—অপৰাধৰ কোনো যুক্তি যুক্ত বিচাৰ নথকা কাৰ্য্য কোনো গণ-তান্ত্ৰিক বিধান সম্মত নহয় আৰু এই কাৰ্য্য গণতান্ত্ৰিকতাৰ বিৰুদ্ধ। কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে এই বিচাৰত আইন সজ্ঞত কাম কৰি মোৰ releaseৰ হুকুম দিয়ে। আনফালে দেখা গল, আমাৰ ৰাজ্য চৰকাৰে, কেৱল মোৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত পুলিচক Upper-Rank দিয়ালে। আমাৰ ৰাজ্যিক পুলিচৰ এনে অৱস্থাত—ব্যয় সঙ্কুল এখন পুলিচ বাজেট কৰি দিনে দিনে পুলিচ বাহিনী বৃদ্ধি কৰাটো অকল দেশত সম্ভাৱ্য বাদৰেই সৃষ্টি কৰা নহয় তাৰ লগে লগে এখন স্বাধীন দেশৰ নাগৰিক সকলক তেওঁলোকৰ ন্যায্য নাগৰিক সত্ত্বৰ পৰাও বঞ্চিত কৰা হৈছে। এই নাগৰিক সত্ত্ব ৰক্ষাৰ কাৰণে কেন্দ্ৰীয় গভণ মেন্টৰো যি আইন কানুন আছে, ভাৰতীয় সংবিধানৰ নাগৰিকস্বত্ত্বৰ আলমলৈ বিশেষকৰূপে বিবেচনা কৰি যাতে আইন আদি কৰা হয় তাৰ কাৰণে মই সকলোৰে দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰোঁ। মোৰ নিজৰ ক্ষেত্ৰতেই দেখা গৈছে যে অকল পুলিচৰ স্বেচচাচাৰীতা আৰু কলমৰ ওপৰতে সকলো বিবেচনা আৰু বিচাৰ কৰা হৈছে। গতিকে যদি পুলিচৰ খাম-খেয়ালীৰ ওপৰতে নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি সকলো বিচাৰ কৰা হয় তেন্তে সমগ্ৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ ঘোৰ অন্যায় কৰা হব।

মই ইয়াকে কৈ মোৰ কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ সদনৰ সমৰ্থণৰ কাৰণে দাঙি ধৰিলো, আৰু মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

Mr. SPEAKER : The motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.1,59,82,700 under grant No.13, Major head—29.—Police, at page 66 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,59,82,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKHLARI : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বিৰোধী দলৰ সদস্যই যি কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে মই তাৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰো। মোৰ বোধেৰেও ডেৰ কোটি টকাৰ ঠাইত যদি তিনি কোটি টকা ধৰিলেহেতেন, তেতিয়াহে বেচি ভাল হ'লহেতেন। পুলিচ কন্ঠেবোল বিলাকে মাহে ২৬ টকা বেতন পায়। এই তাকৰীয়া টকাৰে জীৱন নিৰ্বাহ কৰা বৰ টান। সেই কাৰণে তেওঁবিলাকে বহুত অন্যায় বা দুনীতি অবলম্বন কৰিব লগা হয়। অৱশ্যে তেওঁবিলাক অভাবত পৰিছে এনে কৰিব লগাত পৰিছে। Traffic Control কৰিবৰ কাৰণে পুলিচ বখা হয় যাতে Transport service ত over load নহয়। কিন্তু আমি দেখিছো যে পুলিচে পয়চা খাই over load কৰিবলৈ দিয়ে; Constable ৰ বাহিৰেও Sub-Inspector আদিয়ে Bus service বোৰৰ পৰা পয়চা খায়। দিগবৈত এবাৰ ৫০৫ নং পুলিচে এখন overload গাড়ী ধৰি এৰি দিছিল। মই পুলিচ চাহাবক কোৱাত তেখেতে ৰিপোর্ট ললে কিন্তু মোকদ্দমাৰ কাৰণে মই সাক্ষী দিব নোৱাৰিলো। পুলিচবিলাকে যে এইদৰে পয়চা খায় বা খাবলৈ বাধ্য হয় তেওঁবিলাকৰ দৰিদ্ৰতাৰ কাৰণে। গতিকে তেওঁলোকৰ দৰিদ্ৰতা দূৰ কৰা উচিত।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপনি পুলিচ চাহাবক ৰিপোর্ট কৰিছিলনে ?

Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKHLARI : হয়, কৰিছিলো।

Mr. SPEAKER : পুলিচ চাহাবে কি কৰিলে ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : তেখেতে সাক্ষী দিব নোৱাৰিলে।

Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKHLARI : হয় সাক্ষী দিব নোৱাৰিলো। ভবিষ্যতে সাক্ষী দিম। কিন্তু মোৰ কথা হৈছে যে তেওঁলোকেও যদি তেওঁবিলাকক জোৰাকৈ পয়চা পালেহেতেন, তেনেহলে এনেবিলাক বেমেজালি কেতিয়াও নহ'লহেতেন।

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words in support of the motion moved by my friend Maulvi Sahadat Ali Mondal. Sir, to start with, I like to mention about top heaviness of the Police Department. Sir, if we look into the list of pay drawn by the top Police Officers we find that the Inspector General of Police gets a pay from Rs.2,250 to Rs.2,500, Deputy Inspector General's pay is from Rs.1,950 to Rs.2,150, and the pay of the principal of Police College is from Rs.650 to Rs.1,450. Sir, if we compare the pay of the top ranking officers of the Police Department and the pay of the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Public Instruction we find that the pay of both the Directors is from Rs.1,000 to Rs.1,500. Sir, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education are the two most important nation building Departments. Police Department bears no comparison with the two departments. Sir, I do not understand why the Inspector General of Police gets so much pay, his pay being even more than what our Chief Minister gets. Sir, I ask whether Government will reduce the pay of the top ranking Police officers

to Rs.1,500. Sir, I am now coming to the pay of the Constables and Head Constables. We find that a constable gets from Rs.28 to Rs.40 and the Head Constable from Rs.46 to Rs.65. Further married Constables and Head Constables are provided with quarters which are no better than the cages of circus tigers and lions. These people should be provided with better housing accommodation: Is it not the responsibility of the Government to provide suitable quarters to these people? I urge upon the Government that not only better quarters be given to these poorly paid officers of the Police Department but higher pay should also be given to them.

Sir, there is the age old charge of corruption against the Police Department. I may be reprimanded by the hon. members of the Treasury Benches for bringing this general charge against the Police Department, but Sir, it is the common knowledge and the common talk of the people all over the country, and without any substantial and good reasons, there cannot be such persistent allegations, against the police. Corruption is certainly a dual transaction—there must be those who want to be corrupted and also those who want to corrupt. The poorly paid category of the police department cannot maintain themselves, hence it must be a necessity for those people to take, to corrupt practice, just in order to provide a living for their families. It is a hard fact that these people cannot manage to live on their meagre pay. The better and higher paid Officers take to corrupt practice for the sake of making money to grow rich and assume the air of aristocrats and to live expensively. Sir, in this connection I suggest that there should be reduction of pay of officers at the top, and raising of the pay of the really poor paid people at the bottom with better amenities and better housing arrangements for the lower grade police personal. Sir, we find there is provision in the Police Budget for expansion of the border Police Force. This is a right step taken by the Government. Sir, we also find budget provision for the expansion of the Anti-Corruption Branch and the Intelligence Branch, but Sir, in spite of the expansion, in recent past, we find that the Departments have not done the work we expected from the departments. Sir, regarding the extension of Police administration into the Hills, I like to say that before Independence, practically no policing was done in the Hills. Sir, peace and quietness existed in the Hills and the tribal people's own organisations were strong enough and quite competent enough to manage their own affairs, such as, settlements of lands and maintenance of peace and tranquillity within the Hills and I hope even now the Hills people may be able to maintain peace and order and do all the policing by themselves. The expansion of the Border Protection Force and increase of Border Posts are the only and primary duties of the State and finance of course for these Force must from the

Centre. Sir, I also give credit to Government for providing an adequate River Police Force for protection of our Assam Pakistan borders. Sir, I am now coming to the Village Defence Parties and I stress the need and importance of organising the Village Defence Parties. Some training should be given to the volunteers, these volunteers should be given some emoluments and more money placed at the disposal of the Village Defence Parties.

Sir, it is mentioned in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister that expansion of the Police force has become necessary due to economic reasons. Sir, crimes are increasing in the State and it is the economic condition of the people which is responsible for the increase in crimes. So Sir, unless the people can have sufficient food, clothing, housing accommodation, etc., crimes will certainly increase. So Government will do better if they remove these economic causes, as a result of which crimes will certainly decrease. Then Sir, there are also political reasons for this, because there are people and parties who have in mind some other system for improving the economic condition of people, for supply of sufficient food, clothing etc., and for the purpose of realising those ideals of their own, they take resort to different actions. Sir, if the people are free to work out their ideals by peaceful means, then where is the business for the police to interfere?

Then Sir, as regards the efficiency of the Police force, I just want to say a few words. Sir, whenever a villager lodges an 'ejchar' in any thana for theft or robbery and unless that particular villager mentioned the name of the theft or catch him red-handed, the Police become rather helpless, and they are unable to take the culprit and bring him to book. This is happening almost everywhere. Again Sir, we find in many of the weekly 'hats' and bazars, specially in Dibrugarh mauzas like Barbarua, Lengeri, Tinkhong and other places, open gambling is going on in broad daylight and the Police are never found to take any notice of such gambling, but they are rather alleged to take money from the gamblers and encourage them to carry on gambling in broad daylight. Sir, as I said, the Police are never found to check this practice of gambling in the hats and bazars. Then Sir, the attitude of the people towards the Police has not changed even now. During the time of the British masters, our Friends in the Opposite benches were fighting for political emancipation of the people, but it is the Police who dragged them to jail and it is the Police who committed all kinds of atrocities for which our Friends had to suffer. But even today after achieving that political emancipation of the country this same Police force is being nursed by the same friends who brought about the political emancipation of the country. Sir, these police people have again become the tools in the hands of the power that be, and are oppressing the rival

parties. Sir, it is true that political emancipation of the country has come, we want to have economic emancipation also and we want freedom from exploitation by one section of the people against another. Sir, without this economic emancipation, it is not sufficient for the people to have political emancipation. Rather we find that political activities of certain parties are being interfered with by the party that is in power today, through the agency of Police.

Then Sir, I want to make one reference to the Railway Police also. We find Sir, that when goods are despatched by railways, a good percentage of these goods are being pilfered while in transit. This shows that this Railway Police force also is useless, they cannot check such pilferage and other corruptions.

Sir, I am glad that Government have endeavoured to open Rifle Clubs in Assam. We see one such Club in Shillong and one at Gauhati. I would request Government to make provision for opening more Rifle Clubs in the State.

Then Sir, it has been said that the Government have decided to be more liberal in the issue of licenses for purchase firearms and ammunitions for self-protection and for protection of crops from the ravages of wild animals. In this connection I want to point out to Government that so far as Dibrugarh is concerned the authorities there are not so liberal in this matter. I will just cite an instance. One person by the name Jay Prasad Gore who has got very big cultivation in Tengapani village in Tipling mauza, where wild elephants used to damage the crops every year. This man applied to the authorities for a license to purchase a gun and ammunition to protect his crops, but he has not been granted one although he has been waiting for the last two or three years to get a license for a gun. I do not know why this is so.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Did he apply for a rifle or a shot-gun?

Shri GHANAKANTA GOGOI: For a shot gun, Sir. So Sir, it will be very difficult to check corruption unless we have a machinery for speedy and quick disposal of justice. I therefore request that our Government should see their way to make provision for quick and speedy justice. The people do not like this long circuitous and expensive process of law.

With these words Sir, I support the Cut Motion moved by my Friend Maulavi Sahadat Ali Mondal.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have taken my stand to support the Motion moved by the Chief Minister, Shri Bishnuram Medhi and to oppose the Motion moved by Maulavi Sahadat Ali Mandal.

If we look at the history of police in our State we will find many changes in the actions and activities of our police. Maulavi Sahadat Ali Mondal who was the Mover of the Cut Motion cited some instances that police are oppressing our people here and there and in this connection he cited his own example how he was arrested on a false ground. Sir, only one or two instances cannot convince us. I can cite so many instances how people of Assam can now sleep peacefully. If we see the history of Assam in 1951-52 we will find the occurrence of so many dacoities all over the State. But if we now see the History of Assam in 1953 we will find that the villagers in their villages can sleep peacefully. If we remember those years we will find how police tried to give protection to the villagers and how they spent night after night to persue the dacoits. If we look at the Naliapool incident what do we find ? In that Naliapool incident many miscreants killed some police officers. It is seen on the papers that some members of the Socialist Party requested our Government to withdraw the Naliapool case. Does it not indicate that parties are exciting to commit such offences against the Government, so that they can show the people that the Government is not worthy to keep peace in the State ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Was it the Socialist Party ?

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS : Yes, Sir, it was leftist Socialist Party. Secondly, Sir, I would like to give the example of Nalbari as to what happened there at Belsor. A man was brutally murdered. What happens at Bargaon ? Bhakhara was brutally murdered and when police had been there with the Subdivisional Officer of Barpeta the Subdivisional Officer was wounded. Occurrence of such nature took place all over the State and the police were trying their utmost to arrest the miscreants in order to maintain law and order in the State. Now we find that all people can sleep in peace unlike in the years 1951-52 and so we can eliminate many thanas or police stations now. We now find that in some localities there is no necessity of maintaining police thanas when peace and order has prevailed in the State. In the question time it was stated that in certain areas of Assam there were cases of dacoities. If there are such cases then we would, if necessary, increase the number of police staff in those areas. At the same time we should also see that, considering the arduous nature of the work of the police, they should be given more facilities and amenities. What I find is that through the help of police Government is trying their best to maintain law and order as far as possible and the police on their part are also doing their best to do the job. Therefore, Sir, the police is very useful to maintain law and order in the State. Sir, with these words, I support the Motion moved by our Chief Minister and oppose the Cut Motion of Maulavi Sahadat Ali Mondal.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the Budget Session last year our Chief Minister was pleased to say that ours is not a police State, but a welfare State. We all know what has been shown in proof of it. My Friend Mr. Gogoi has said that if the economic and political basis of the State be improved, if there be no exploitation of man by man, if there be no unemployment and economic crisis then crimes in the State would naturally decrease. That is true, Sir, but that is a radical suggestion. I am taking my stand just at this moment not to make any radical suggestion because the Government is opposed to hear any suggestion for a radical change. I know that to-day, at this moment, in the present composition of this House, we cannot bring about a radical change in the country. Therefore, my suggestions and criticisms, which, I think, will be constructive, will be confined to the present context only and to the urgent need of the hour. I refuse to get excited by the provocative speech given by my immediate predecessor taking the floor here in this House, I mean Mr. Das. He has brought here quite irrelevant and uncalled for things. Naliapool case is a *Sub-judice* matter and I do not want to enter into the merit or demerit of the case. The only thing that I should like to say without prejudicing the case is that we are all sorry for any loss of lives, be that the life of any police official or be that the life of Koshori Deb, an old lady aged about 60 years or be that the life of Bina Bora, a girl of 16 years of age, who were shot dead by the police at Naliapool. We all are sorry for any loss of lives. I wish that the entire State is as peaceful, as quiet and as free in the matter of theft and dacoities as perhaps the hamlet of Mr. Das is. He says that it is in 1953 alone that he can sleep in peace. I wish he can sleep in peace forever (laughter). I only want to say that whatever money is spent under the head 'Police' should be well spent. The police should do its duty and not transgress. No doubt there may be stray cases where one or two officials may go astray, but by such cases we are not judging the entire Department. But the picture is not of a few stray cases of a few individuals only. Let us see the general conduct of the police to day. Police has been observing perhaps one week in the year as Courtesy Week. We wish all the 52 weeks in the year were Courtesy Weeks instead of only one week in a year. But what are the realities? Have our police personnel been really successful in dealing with cases of thefts and dacoities? Has really the number of anti-social activities of such elements decreased? Are police officers generally speaking really clean and genuinely active in suppressing anti-social elements? I may cite one instance. There on the streets of Gauhati, specially on the Gauhati-Shillong road just near the first railway gate through which our Chief Minister who is also in charge of Police must have passed very often during the last month, swarms of gamblers are seen gambling in broad day light

and, Sir, you will also see the police men strolling nearabout. I should like to say that this gambling is going on at the heart of the Gauhati town under the kind patronage of the police. Please go and ask anybody of Gauhati and he will vouchsafe it. Every now and then in the areas of Panbari, Panikhati, Digaru dacoities are being committed. People say that these are the acts of some Army-deserters who fled away from the Army in 1945-46. Series of dacoities accompanied by murder have been committed in those areas and no culprit has been traced. There took place a murder near about Digaru only recently and again there took place a dacoity with murder near Sonapur. But the culprits are still untraced.

There are so many other burglaries and dacoities in that area and people of that area say that Police are in league with these gangs of dacoits and burglars and several people of this area reported to the police who these people are and where they live, but police did not heed to the people. It was on the 25th of February last that at midnight a police party picked up selected houses of the known Communists in that area. It was just before the bye-election of the Gauhati Constituency. Selecting the known Communists they made thorough searches of their houses and took away some of our election papers, parts of microphones, voters' lists, etc. From a report of a worker, Shri Purna Saikia, the public reported this matter to the Deputy Commissioner and I personally wrote to the Deputy Commissioner and resolutions from public meetings were sent to the Chief Minister. The Deputy Commissioner said to me that he made an enquiry into the matter and found that the allegation was substantial and that such searches were made, but he said that on honest information police made such searches. But the time was very awkward because by this action the people got terrorised. When there are cases of actual decoity and buglary, instead of finding out the real culprits, they wanted to terrorise political opponents and supporters of the opponent party of the Government.

On the 7th March, some people gave a false information to the Gauhati Police Station that a cow was slaughtered on the street of Athgaon. This information was sent to the police by 'phone' and this rumour was spread throughout the town. About one thousand people surrounded the house of a Muslim gentleman in whose house there was a religious ceremony. The police came on the call of the 'phone', but instead of dispersing the crowd, they got into the house of that gentleman and searched all the rooms, kitchen, latrine etc., and came out and reported to the crowd outside that no Kur-bani was made. If actually Kur-bani would have been made in performing the religious observance and a cow would have been slaughtered by the Muslim gentleman, what would have happened? The cow slaughter has not yet been prohibited by law. The policemen

instead of dispersing the crowd went on to look whether a cow was slaughtered there. Of course, I am not advocating the slaughter of cow. What I say is that the police transgressed its duty by entering into the house and searching therein whether Kurbanî was made in the house or not though its duty was to disperse the crowd and not to interfere with a religious observance.

Next morning, I went there and some Congressmen also went there. The Superintendent of Police was requested to come. He came there and said that after all a bad situation had been averted and he said that what the police had done was quite good. This illegal entry and searching of a house is a right of the police and a thing not to be recorded. That is the opinion of the Superintendent of Police.

Then again on the Polling day of this Gauhati Bye-election, on the 15th March, while polling was going on, one Mr. Singh, a Criminal Investigation Department Sub-Inspector of Gauhati entered into the Polling Booth of Hindi High School of Fancybazar without the permission of the Presiding Officer and demanded the names of the Polling Agents for the Communist candidate. The Presiding Officer said that he could not comply with the request as he was not asked to do so by the Returning Officer. The Criminal Investigation Department Sub-Inspector said that he had the permission of the Returning Officer and got the names. As a result the voters were panicky and the Polling Agents were also panicky. I referred the matter to the Deputy Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner went to the spot and enquired of the Presiding Officer whether it was a fact and he said that it was a fact. But the Police Department did not take any step, or at least we do not know whether the Police Department or Government have taken any step with regard to this Police Officer. This is how the Police Department functions.

Then, even here at Shillong, only on the 3rd of this month there took place a day-light burglary in Laban area in a Mess where some officers and students live. They reported the matter to the Officer-in-charge of the local Police Station, Sub-Inspector Thanuram Saikia. They wanted to help the police in finding out the culprits but the officer did not care to heed them and said, "You need not bother about it as I know my duty." While we always hear from the Government that it is the duty of the people to co-operate with the police, whenever people go to co-operate with the police in order to keep the peace and tranquillity of the State the police do not like it because they seem to think that if there be popular initiative in the matter of keeping law and order in the State the bribery and corruption, which is so very rampant in our Police Department, which the Minister-in-charge may or may not admit, will not be flourishing to their advantage. So, we see that the general tendency of the police is not to take the co-operation of the people.

Under these circumstances, the money that is demanded for this Department is not worth the demand. In saying this, Sir, I think, I am not making any exaggeration.....

Is my time up, Sir ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes. The Chief Minister may reply now.
(Then Maulavi Tamizuddin Pradhani and Shri Bimala Kanta Bora took their stand).

Mr. SPEAKER : I am sorry, I cannot allow any further discussions as I have already called out the name of the Chief Minister. We have got 15 minutes from the Question Hour and the Chief Minister will get half an hour's time to reply.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that Mr. Bhattacharyya, Mr. Gogoi and Maulavi Sahadat Ali Mandal have not taken extreme views in this discussion of the Police Budget. I also congratulate Mr. Bhattacharyya that without any excitement he narrated certain facts here in this House. Before going into the merits of the various questions raised by them, I will deal only with the first which was raised by Mr. Mandal concerning his personal matters, as referred to by him, in this case. I have already stated on various occasions in course of my reply to questions and in course of my other statements, why Government was forced to take action on definite material connecting him with anti-State activities and that the materials could not be disclosed for the safety of the State. Without disclosing the details, I would like to show from some of the statements made by hon. Member himself how he was carrying on anti-State activities. Most probably he did not like to state the other portion of the story. He suppressed the other portion of the story, also he said that a letter was seized by the Police and the accused made a confession and the man who was arrested was brought to the Magistrate and made confession implicating him (hon. Member) and that he was a servant of Maulavi Sahadat Ali Mandal. So evidently.....

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDAL : সি মোৰ চাকৰ নহয়। তাৰ বিৰোধে দুটা মকদ্দমা এতিয়াও চলি আছে।

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : The cases are pending. One of the cases is that he was a servant in the house of Maulavi Sahadat Ali Mandal and he brought certain letters containing certain information which I am not in a position to disclose.

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDAL : তদন্ত কৰিলেই সঠিক খবৰটো পোৱা যাব। কাচাৰিত গৈ কলেই চাকৰ হ'ব নোৱাৰে।

Mr. SPEAKER : Sorry Mr. Mandal, I cannot allow you to speak now. If you want any clarification, you will get it afterwards.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Sir, after due investigations, it was ascertained that he was a servant in the house of Maulavi Sahadat Ali Mandal. The portion containing these incriminating matters covered anti-State activities. The version of the servant of Maulavi Sahadat Ali Mandal before the Magistrate is that he was deputed by Mr. Sahadat Ali Mandal himself to post this letter in a place where there is no person present at the time of posting the letter. That was also an instruction from Mr. Mandal. We were keeping watch on people who were sending letters to Pakistan conveying certain information concerning this State. All these informations we had in our possession. As soon as the servant in question came near the post office, he looked round to see if there was anybody present, and he posted the letter in the post box. Immediately after the posting of the letter, in consultation with the Postmaster, the letter was seized and later on produced before the Magistrate. I cannot disclose the contents of the whole letter. But from some portions of the letter the Members here will understand what kind of anti-State activities he was carrying on. It contained information about the disposition of our Border Force and some other important informations concerning our Border district. The letter expressed surprise as to why the money was not coming after receipt of first instalment from Pakistan and things like that. From these it will be clear what activities my Friend was carrying on in the Border district of Goalpara. Sir, I repeatedly said that it is not the intention of the Government to keep anybody in detention without specific ground. In case of Mr. Mandal, we had to do so with a heavy heart. Of course, I am glad he has been released by the Supreme Court. But what is the ground of release? It was on a technical ground that he was released. The order of the detention was scrutinised by no less a person than that of a Judge of the High Court and two other persons qualified to be Judges of the High Court. These three persons went into the merits of the case and confirmed detention. The technical ground is that when at the time the Advisory Committee passed the order confirming the order of detention, they did not wait for any representation to be made by Mr. Mandal, but it is quite clear also that at the time the order was served on him, he was asked to show cause, which he did not and the order of confirmation was made before the stipulated period of six weeks. The Supreme Court held that they should have waited till this period of six weeks to see if any representation was made by him within that period of six weeks. Even after that order of the Court, we were advised by our Lawyers that he was

released on a technical ground that he had not got opportunity to submit representation and that Government may re-arrest him. But we took a different view that since he has been in detention for more than six months we should give him a chance to rectify his conduct. We stand for preservation of Civil liberty and expect a change of heart even of those who carry anti-State activities. We wanted to give him a chance to correct himself. That is why Government did not take any action against him. With regard to the question of detention, these few facts will clearly indicate what activities my Friend was carrying on. If there was any question of Ramesh Pandey or any body siding with the Police, the person so aggrieved might have lodged a complaint before the Magistrate or Police or he could have made a representation to the Government. But nothing of the kind was done.

Sir, we expect after his detention for the period he will realise his mistake and will give up his anti-State activities and he will not indulge in activities that are not in the interest of the State. I hope, in future he will not take advantage of his liberty and utilise his status and position for the interest of Pakistan. He is a citizen of this State and he must look to the interest of this State. I hope, after his detention of these few months he must have undergone mental change and henceforward he will work for the interest of the State.

As regards other persons, referred to by Shri Sahadat Ali, their cases are pending before the Court and the Court will do justice on their merit of all these cases.

As regards the case of Rameswar Pandey, I am not aware of it. If there is any specific instances of his being sided with the Police causing harrassment to the people, we shall make a thorough enquiry in regard to the matter.

When a dacoity is committed, generally the names of the suspected persons are given in the Azahar and the Police go to the spot for a thorough enquiry on receipt of the report. If the Police refuses to make thorough investigation of the report. If the matter may be easily brought before the Court. If the Police is found delinquent, or acting against the Government instruction or siding with the Dacoits, such allegation may be brought to the notice of the authorities. Instead of doing so, hon. Member has at the first instance made such a vague statement by taking advantage of the privilege of the House. These statements are made without any sense of responsibility mainly as a propaganda against the Government under the shelter of the privilege of the House.

Regarding the pay scales of lower grade officers, I am one with Mr. Gogoi. It is always our endeavour to increase pay and emoluments of the lower grade officers.

As soon as the Congress came into power, the Government took up this question of increasing the pay and emoluments of the persons who were getting less than Rs. 100 per month, not only Police Department but also all other officers, such as School teachers, mandals, peons, etc. After thorough enquiry, we increased the pay of the lower grade officers; not only their pay was increased consistent with our finances, but also in view of the rise in price index, they were given rice concessions and free rations and dearness allowances. If these are calculated, it will be more than Rs. 14 lakhs.

The other allegation that has been made is regarding top heavy administration. I think it is known to the hon. Members of the House that the posts of Inspector General of Police and Deputy Inspector General of Police referred to by Mr. Gogoi, belong to the All-India Service and their pay and emoluments are fixed according to the rule prevailing at the time the Constitution came into force. The Constitution gives them certain guarantees. In order to attract better type of people for these posts, the Government of India fixed their pay scales. That is why, the State Government cannot reduce their pay scales. Even if these above mentioned All-India Services are wiped out, their pay and emoluments taken together will come to not more than Rs. 2 lakhs or so. If that amount is distributed among the lower grade officers, it will not come to 1 pice per head. It will be apparent that the lot of the lower grade officers cannot be improved by a drastic cut in the salaries of Indian Police Service Officers. Under the circumstances, no useful purpose is served by reducing the pay scales of the All-India Services, such as Inspector General of Police and Deputy Inspector General of Police, etc.

Mr. Gogoi has also mentioned about gambling that is reported to be going on in different hats in his Subdivision, and he alleges that the police officers are also sharing the profits cut of those gamblers. Sir, I think I can question him whether he brought this thing to the notice of the Government or the local authorities.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: On a point of information, Sir, he says that the people did inform the Police.

Shri GHANAKANTA GOGOI: Sir, I shall again inform the Police when I happen to find such a case.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): It appears the hon. Member has made the allegation without personal knowledge. About six months ago, I issued a circular to the effect that gambling in public places should be stopped. The District Officers are to take steps not only to punish the gamblers but also

to take action against the Police if they are found to be negligent in detection of gambling in public places. This kind of statements will not help Government to root out the evil practices, but it may serve as a propaganda only.

As regards gun license, my Friend has alleged that some deserving persons were not given license. We have already issued directives to all the Superintendents of Police and Deputy Commissioners to examine the cases of deserving applicants and if they are found suitable, licenses should be granted to them. But if a person wants a licence for B. L. gun for killing an elephant, it will serve no purpose. Personally Sir, I do not know the name of Jey Prasad Gore. If he is a suitable person why the license will not be given to him? Of course there are other factors to be taken into consideration. Mr. Bhattacharyya said that in connection with a dacoity, the police searched the house of a Communist at Khetri side. I do not know if that person was a Communist nor do I know his name. It is the duty of the police to do their duties fearlessly irrespective of the fact whether the person suspected is Communist or not. Further my Friend has said that some other houses were also searched simply because the police suspected that the members of those houses were Communists, I should for the information of my Friend say that those houses were searched in connection with some dacoities.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: But nobody was arrested.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): If nothing suspicious was found how can the police arrest the person. In this connection my Friend also said that some of the things were taken away by the police, but I am surprised to find that no complaint regarding these allegations was made. I wish to inform my Friend that the individuals aggrieved have absolute right to complain if such action was committed by the police maliciously.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Complaint was lodged, and perhaps a copy of the same was sent to the Chief Minister.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): No complaint of the kind was sent to me. As a matter of fact we received a vague allegation without any particulars that the Government Officers were directly interfering with election.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Everything in that complaint was put in detail.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): I can assure the House that if any officers are found aiding either Congress or Communist in election I will surely deal with such officers adequately. All Government officers are expected to be neutral in the matter of election. But the House will be surprised to hear that we had

reports that many of the Government officers were helping and supporting the Communists, there are many instances of such reports, but we cannot take any action against such officers ; simply on vague allegation in absence of evidence supporting such allegations. All Government officers were instructed to be strictly neutral in election matters.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : In the matter of voting also ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Yes of course. Everybody is free to cast his own vote, but it has come to our knowledge that the Communist Party of India and Revolutionary Communist Party of India members were trying to poison the Government officers, and to win over some of them to their sides.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARAYYA : No, with Congress.

Mr. SPEAKER : You cannot speak like that across the House, you can speak to me.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, certain statements are being made that members of the Communist Party of India and Revolutionary Communist Party of India are penetrating into the Government offices.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : There is such an attempt. Sir, I do not know the story of cow slaughter. But according to the statement of Shri Bhattacharyya a big crowd surrounded the house where it was alleged that a cow was slaughtered. Sir, naturally when the police saw a big excited crowd gathered in that particular house they went to the house to find out what it was about ; the police had to perform their own duties and after having ascertained that it was a false rumour they explained matters and the crowd dispersed. Sir, such false rumour was spread just before the election by some interested parties, so that they can fish in troubled water, and to take advantage of the situation, but Sir, the police very tactfully managed the situation and the owner of the house must have thanked the police for having come to his rescue and persuaded the excited crowd to disperse.

It is regrettable Sir, that such false rumours were spreading by some interested parties with the result that a large number of Muslims on the one part and Hindus on the other, gathered together in fighting attitude but the situation however was tactfully handled by the police.

Secondly, Sir, my Friend mentioned about prevalence of gambling in the open public places. If so, it is his duty to bring the matter to the notice of the Police immediately. If the policeman took no notice, he could have reported against that particular policeman by jotting down his number.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Now a days policemen do not have numbers with them.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : They do. Their numbers are pinned on their uniforms on the right side of their chest.

Now Sir, I do not say that all policemen are without fault. But no generalisation can be made for fault of a few individuals. There may be some black sheep among them. Action is taken against such policeman against whom there is sufficient evidence justifying action.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : What about the C. I. D. man in the Polling Booth?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Up till now there is no complaint made yet against that man, but I can direct an enquiry in the matter in case a written complaint is made.

Mr. SPEAKER : Will you take some time more?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Yes Sir, I would like to take some more time and I think I can do so after lunch.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1-30 P. M.

After Lunch

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was telling that Mr. Bhattacharyya and Mr. Gogoi cited only a few individual stray cases of so called mis-behaviour of police officers and those informations are not based on their personal knowledge. Those information might have been given to them by certain interested persons. From those cases they want to conclude that all police officers are not good and that they are not courteous as the Government is trying to make them by observing the 'Courtesy Week'. Our idea is that our police officers should always be courteous to the people, they should seek their co-operation and that they should consider themselves as servants of the public and with their co-operation to root out all crimes from our society.

But Sir, another aspect of the matter, namely, the enormous hardship under which our police officers are working in the Border areas extending over 450 miles and at different inaccessible places has not been fully appreciated in levelling vague charges. What they are doing to protect us and to preserve the internal security of the country at tremendous sacrifices has not been appreciated by

the Members of the Opposition. The factor that innumerable police officers of our State have been moving at great personal sacrifice and discomfort and in the midst of such trying circumstances has not actually been taken into consideration. Instead of being grateful to them for the hardship these gallant police officers are undergoing to defend the Border and for protection of life and property, the Members of the Opposition are making unmerited and unjustified allegations practically on vague informations supplied to them by interested persons. I have already stated that our object is to increase the pay of the lower grade police officers and we did it as far as our financial resources at our disposal permitted us at the time.

Immediately after the Partition of the country, in view of the troubles in the Border, Government had to increase the number of Border police to defend our boundary and protect the life and property of our nationals. Some political parties also were no less responsible for increase of crime and lawlessness. Our culture and civilisation created an atmosphere which made it impossible for even miscreants to commit dacoities, murder, theft of personal properties. Had that moral atmosphere been allowed to be continued, even miscreants would have hesitated to commit crime and dacoity. We believe that in order to secure our objective we must use non-violent means; we must follow the principle of non-violence. Our actions must be based on non-violence and truth so that our means should be as pure as the ends. But ideologies were borrowed from the totalitarian countries by some of our young friends and they immediately after the Independence, in order to capture power followed those States and had recourse to violence. Not only they used violence against their opponents but also used those methods for acquiring fund and did not hesitate either to commit dacoities, theft, etc. These wave of crimes committed by these youngmen was responsible for an atmosphere conducive to such crimes. The ideologies borrowed from the totalitarian countries and followed by their violent activities were responsible for all these violent crimes committed by a large number of our youngmen belonging to those parties or engaged by those parties. Sir, actually these parties were responsible for using violent methods and for increasing the number of crimes and spreading the violent activities in the country and making innocent people victim of such violence. We had to face a new situation due to dacoities and crimes committed for a political purpose. In order to tackle that situation we had to carry on a campaign with the help of the police and armed forces as those miscreants used to take shelter in the hills and jungles where they kept arms and ammunitions concealed which they collected to use as a means for capturing power. I hope by their experience they will realise that their creed of violence cannot thrive in Indian soil

and will give up that creed. For the information of the Members of the Opposition I propose to place a few figures of these violent crimes. In 1950, that this is the year in which those political parties began their activities, the cases of murder for gain 36 ; in 1951, 14 and in 1952, 10. Cases of robbery in 1950, 97 ; in 1951, 31 and in 1952, 31. Cases of serious riots in 1950, 323 ; in 1951, 59 and in 1952, 48. Cases under the Arms Act in 1950, 112 ; in 1951, 143 and in 1952, 84.

Our political parties, some of which are now in the Opposition and have learnt by their experience the futility of such violent means and can help us in creating an atmosphere of non-violence and a peaceful atmosphere to enable us to tackle that problem effectively.

As regards armed theft and dacoity cases, including the cases of other offences on the Border since 1947, I may say that they have decreased to a great extent. There were serious cases of Border troubles and riots in 1950 and from 1951 onwards we have to a certain extent, as it appears solved that problem and now Government have been trying its utmost to tackle the problem of law and order and keeping down the number of crimes to a great extent. For the Border protection alone our cost is over 42 lakhs out of the total budget of 1 crore and 59 lakhs. There are anti-Pakistan Border check posts that we are having to day in addition to the Border Security Force which have to be maintained after the Partition. At present our need is for increasing the Police force and Border Security Forces in view of the circumstances stated by me, and whatever money is available is spent in expanding the Police force and arming them with up-to-date arms and ammunition.

As a matter of fact, on account of these wide-spread crimes, Government will have to open police stations and outposts in the different places. For that purpose, Sir, a Police Reorganisation Committee, was set up and it went into all these details and drew up a plan. We have not been able to implement that plan fully due to financial difficulties.

Sir, another factor which needs consideration is the practical absence of separate police administration in the hills as all police duties are entrusted to the Assam Rifles. With the attainment of Independence, however, the Assam Rifles had to be engaged in the Border areas, extending about 2,000 miles, for defending our Border and it will be our endeavour to release them as far as possible from ordinary police duties and replace them by regular police. In a district like Lushai Hills, covering an area of 8,000 sq. miles, we had only one police station at Aijal and one at Lungleh ; there is no Superintendent of Police. Therefore, Sir, we will have to expand the Police force according to our necessity,—we will have to spend more money for preservation of law and order by increa-

sing the cadre of both armed and unarmed police. The Assam Rifles have got to be released for defending the frontier and cannot be utilised as before for escorting prisoners, guarding treasuries, etc. These are our problems which we must face and solve.

Then, Sir, criticism was made that ours was not a welfare State. I will just give a few figures to indicate what sort of State ours is. The expenditure on Police in the present Budget does not come upto more than 8 per cent. of our total expenditure. In the year 1944-45 the educational expenses of our State, including Sylhet, was 50 lakhs of rupees. What it is now? It is now about two crores of rupees, *i. e.*, four times the amount that was spent in 1944-45 for the whole State including Sylhet. The Medical budget in 1944-45 was only Rs.19 lakhs and now it is about Rs.97 lakhs if Medical and Public Health Departments are taken together. From these figures, it is apparent that we want to give more social services to the people and serve the people to the best of our ability. Then, Sir, under the head "Civil Works", the amount spent was Rs.57 lakhs in 1944-45, whereas at present we are spending about 4 crores of rupees annually for roads, bridges, embankments, etc. Does it not show that our objective is the creation of a welfare State? We want to do away with the police as soon as the necessary atmosphere is created. We appeal to the Members opposite and the public in general to create an atmosphere of peace and good will and hatred against crimes and violence. But that atmosphere cannot be created if political parties for their own interest preach violence amongst the people, instigate them to squat on land with a view to retard our attempt at planned settlement. I would appeal to the Opposition to try to attain their objective by peaceful means on the basis of Indian culture. They should not look to the people outside and try to transplant their culture in India. With these few words, Sir, I request my hon. Friend to withdraw his motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: What are you going to do, Mr. Sahadat Ali Mandal?

Mr. SAHADAT ALI MANDAL: অব্যক্ত মহোদয়, তেনেহলে যই প্রশ্নটি উঠাই নৈছে।

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

(After a pause)

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,59,82,700 (Rupees one crore, fifty-nine lakhs, eighty-two thousand and Seven hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the head "29.—Police". The Motion was adopted.

GRANT No. 1

(4-Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.94,200 (Rupees ninety-four thousand and two hundred) only be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1954, for the administration of the head "4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax".

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.94,200 (Rupees ninety-four thousand and two hundred) only be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1954, for the administration of the head "4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax".

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although there is no cut motion on this demand, I would like to speak a few words. I, of course, do not know whether these words will be at all appreciated because it seems our Government has been following a policy of "কানে দিয়েছি তুলো, পিঠে বেঁকেছি কুলো" (Shri Baidyanath Mookerjee: After all, our Government!) Yes, unfortunately our Government. Even then let me try and see whether these words can penetrate through the ears which are tightly plugged with cotton.

Sir, when the agricultural income-tax was first imposed, the price of paddy per maund was about Re.1 and, therefore, for a peasant to be assessed by this tax had to have at least 3,000 maunds of paddy. At present, as we all know, the price of paddy has gone up about 10 times and so a peasant having about 300 maunds of paddy has got to pay agricultural income-tax. Now, Sir, the other expenses of the peasants have also gone up and, as we know, our agriculturists have also mostly on paddy alone. They are also not adept at various types of cultivation and they have no side business as well. Naturally, a peasant having something like 300 maunds of paddy finds it difficult to pay agricultural income-tax. Sir, our fiscal policy should be to levy heavier taxes on those who can afford to pay. There should not be a taxation policy in a manner whereby the common people have to bear a greater burden. Let the richer section of people pay more. Let the poorer people pay less. That ought to be the policy to be pursued by the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your basis?

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: My basis is that I am objecting to the agricultural income tax as at present it is being imposed. My suggestion is that the minimum of the present amount on which it is taxed be raised.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the present amount on which it is taxable?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: It is Rs.3,000 at present. My suggestion is that it should be raised, if my words enter through the cotton plug.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please do not indulge in personal recrimination?

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I am using the words for the Government and not for any individual, Sir. I shall be able to discuss this point further when the Bill comes to this House but when this demand has come to the House to be passed at this time there should be some voice of objection and I am now raising that voice that this policy of fixing the minimum should be revised and the amount on which the tax is applicable should be raised.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you suggest Rs.4,000?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I do not want to suggest any amount. But my general suggestion and observation is that it should be raised. Rs.3,000 is the figure which is hitting hard the middle and poorer sections of the people and for deriving a higher income from this source by Government the richer section of the people who get a bigger income should be taxed. If this is done, there will be an even distribution of taxes and invocation of co-operation and good will will bear fruit otherwise that invocation may simply go in vain.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, is not strictly pertinent. Every year we come before the House with a Finance Bill and in that Finance Bill the rate of the income-tax and taxable limit of the income-tax are fixed by the House. I am coming before the House this Session also with the Finance Bill for the year 1953-54. At that time my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, will get ample opportunity to change the rate of income, if he so likes by moving necessary amendments. He will get ample opportunity to change the rate even by bringing an amendment. The Bill comes every year to this House in the Budget Session for passing it into an Act.

Another point is that the agricultural income tax is hitting hard a large number of people. I cannot agree with him on this point. What is the actual amount realised from the people? From the tea garden we get Rs.80 lakhs or near about that figure and from the agriculturists about a lakh of rupees and probably not more than that. That shows how scrupulous we are. As a matter of fact, while passing this Bill we had fixed the limit at Rs.3,000 and that is also, after deducting all expenses incurred on production. The cultivator or agriculturist who

gets a net profit income of Rs.3,000 after deducting all expenses on cultivation becomes liable to pay the tax. That is the law. But a professional man who earns a gross income of Rs.3,000 pays income tax. I cannot really see any objection of paying this small amount towards the state exchequer. The people who are taxed in Assam have got plenty of land. As a matter of fact, only those people who have plenty of land and engage large number of servants and earn a net income of Rs.3,000 or above are subjected to this tax. When professional man who earns an income of Rs.3,000 can pay this tax, why the agriculturists with equal income should not pay? The condition of the professional man who is taxed is no better than that of the agriculturist. I know personally some instances of this kind, which my Friend, Mr. Phookan, himself will bear me out. There are people in Jorhat Sub-division, who own 400 to 1,000 puas of land and are giving out there land on Adhi; for cultivation and making a very good income therefrom. Why not such people should make contribution to the State coffers by giving the income-tax? Generally, people of this sort who own large areas of land are subjected to this tax. Instructions have also been given to our officers that there should not be unnecessary Jhulum on our people.

With these observations, I think, I have disposed of the points raised by my Friend and, I hope, the House will now see its way to accept my motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.94,200 (Rupees ninety-four thousand and two hundred) only be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the head—"4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax".

The question was adopted.

GRANT No. 31.

(54—Famine Relief)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that sum not exceeding Rs.2,62,000 (Rupees two lakhs and sixty-two thousand) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the head—"54.—Famine Relief.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.2,62,000 (Rupees two lakhs and sixty-two thousand) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the head—"54—Famine Relief".

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Chaudhury.

Shri RADHA CHARAN CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.2,62,000 under Grant No.31, Major head—54.—Famine Relief, at page 244 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,62,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, in India, the famine is mainly due to some natural calamities, such as floods, earthquakes and droughts. In almost every year, Assam is faced with famine either in this corner or in that corner of the State. In such cases, Sir, it is the duty of every citizen in Assam to render help to the victims of famine. Sir, whenever, there is such famine, we find some relief committees are formed but I regret to inform the House that—specially when I shall refer to the Gauhati Relief Committee, I find that this committee is formed with the people belonging to the Political Party which is now in power. After all, relief work is a humanitarian work. Every body should offer his help. It is the duty of the Government to seek co-operation from the members of the different parties also. So my intention in moving this motion is to draw the attention of the Government that they should seek co-operation from all parties in such matters. Sir, another point I want to emphasise is that such committees should not be formed in the headquarters of the Districts only. Some Sub-Committees should be formed in the affected areas. In this connection I would also like to point out another thing. It is often reported that some people who are entrusted with the work of distribution of some articles, misappropriate the money or the articles of relief and thus they do not reach the hands of the actual affected persons. Government should see that these articles actually reach the hands of the needy people in the affected areas.

With these observations, Sir, I again request Government to seek co-operation from responsible members of every political party.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.2,62,000 under Grant No.31, Major head—54—Famine Relief, at page 244 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1., *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,62,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Choudhury has raised two small points. One point is that generally in the formation of relief committees Government do not take as members people belonging to other political parties. Only such persons are taken who belong to the party of the Government. With regard to this allegation

Sir, I must unhesitatingly state that the charge levelled by my Friend, Mr. Choudhury is without the least foundation. Sir, Government is always eager to take the co-operation of all political parties who are desirous of helping the affected people in such circumstances. Sir, this is a sacred task to give succour to the persons in distress. In such matters we do not make any distinction between any political parties. Only we see that the political parties who are eager to co-operate, have no political string behind them. If they want to join us with some political ends in view, it is difficult for us to accept them. Why should Government not seek co-operation of those people, Sir, if they are actuated by the noble inspiration of serving distressed people? I can assure my Friend that we are always eager to seek co-operation from anybody in such matters.

Another allegation is that at the time of distributing money or other articles, the actual needy people do not get these things. He says that there are persons in the relief committees who in guise of relief workers misappropriate such things and thereby abuse their power and privilege thus bestowed on them. Here also I may assure my Friend that if he can bring any specific instance of such abuse of powers, Government will take necessary action against such unscrupulous persons who take advantage of their position in the relief committees and abuse their powers in this way. I would request him to bring such instances to the notice of the Government, in future. Merely coming to the House and making vague allegations will not help anybody.

With these words, Sir, I request Mr. Choudhury to kindly withdraw his Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: What do you think, Mr. Choudhury? Do you like to withdraw it?

Shri RAHDA CHARAN CHOUDHURY: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has he leave of the House to withdraw his Motion?

(The Motion was, withdrawn by leave of the House)

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.2,62,000 (Rupees two lakhs and sixty-two thousand) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head—"54—Famine Relief".

The Motion was carried.

GRANT No.32.

(55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.31,17,800 (Rupees thirty-one lakhs, seventeen thousand and eight hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head—“55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions”.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.31,17,800 (Rupees thirty-one lakhs, seventeen thousand and eight hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head—55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions”.

(After a pause)

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.31,17,800 (Rupees thirty-one lakhs, seventeen thousand and eight hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head—“55—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions”.

The Motion was carried.

GRANT No.33.

(56—Stationery and Printing)

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.9,69,800 (Rupees nine lakhs sixty-nine thousand and eight hundred) be granted to defray the charge which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head—“56—Stationery and Printing.”

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.9,69,800 (Rupees nine lakhs, sixty-nine thousand and eight hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head—“56—Stationery and Printing.”

(After a pause)

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.9,69,800 (Rupees nine lakhs sixty-nine thousand and eight hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head—56—Stationery and Printing.

The Motion was carried.

GRANT No.15

(36.—Scientific Departments)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.18,000 (Rupees eighteen thousand) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head—"36—Scientific Departments."

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion is that a sum not exceeding Rs.18,000 (Rupees eighteen thousand) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1955 for the administration of the head—"36—Scientific Departments."

(After a pause)

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.18,000 (Rupees eighteen thousand) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head—"36—Scientific Departments".

The Motion was carried.

GRANT No.44

(64—C—Pre-Partition Payment)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.30,000 (Rupees thirty thousand) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "64—C—Pre-Partition Payments".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,000 (Rupees thirty thousand) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "64—C—Pre-Partition Payments".

After a pause

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,000 (Rupees thirty thousand) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "64—C—Pre-Partition Payments".

The Motion was carried.

GRANT No. 9

(18—B—and—68—B—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage)

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 97,15,600 (Rupees ninety seven lakhs,

fifteen thousand and six hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head—"18—Band 68—B—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 97,15,600 (Rupees ninety-seven lakhs, fifteen thousand and six hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "18—B—and—68—B Navigation, Embankment and Drainage".

Shri GHANAKANTA GOGOI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 97,15,600 under Grant No. 9, Major head 18—B—and 68—B—Navigation Embankment and Drainage Works, at page 28 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1 i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 97,15,600 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, I move this Cut Motion in order to raise a general discussion on Navigation, Embankment and Drainage. Sir, let me take Navigation first. From a perusal of the Budget, we find that there is provision of Rs. 5,000 which is given to the River Steam Navigation Company for improvement of navigation in the Assam Valley. Sir, this Rs. 5,000 is not enough for the purpose. Does the R. S. N. Co. proposes to make all the different big rivers of Assam navigable? Probably not. So, Sir, Government should do something more to keep these navigable channels of different rivers open. It is stated in the Budget that we have got a Department to look to these matters. But, I find that it is a misnomer. It is useless. The inland Navigation is being done by the R. S. N. Co. Sir, this is an important State subject.

Sir, our Government should take steps to nationalise the inland Navigation. The River Brahmaputra is one of the greatest rivers in the world. Not only that. This is an international river, and is as important as other rivers of different States in the Indian Union. Our Brahmaputra runs through Tibet and after passing through our State it runs into an alien country. The importance of Brahmaputra should not be neglected. It is as important, or even more important than the famous Danube of Europe.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think, the Brahmaputra is seven miles wide near about Jorhat and the Danube is only two furlongs or so.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Sir, from the security point of view, nationalisation of inland navigation is very important.

Mr. SPEAKER: Gogoi, this Rs. 5,000 is for snag clearing in the Desang and Doroì Rivers by the steamer companies.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Sir, I have a very important point to say. At present the people of Assam, *i. e.*, the young Assamese people are not getting adequate chance to learn the techniques of running the steam propelled fleets, or the steamer boats that are plying in the Brahmaputra. If it is nationalised and if facilities are given to the children of the soil, to learn about navigation, I think the problems of unemployments will be to some extent solved. There will be new avenues of employment and young people will be able to learn the technique of navigating the steam boats.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Which item he is speaking, Sir?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Under Grant No. 9. I am speaking regarding the nationalising the River Steam Navigation Co.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does it come under this head?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Sir, it has got connections with it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should rule your contents.

The Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs. 97,15,600 under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B—and—68-B—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works at page 28 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.97,15,600 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, this does not come under this head. He is criticising the Government for not giving adequate help for snag clearing.

Mr. SPEAKER: He dose not say this.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): His criticism relating to navigation does not come under the Head. So, Sir, I need not give him any reply to it. For the information of the House, I would like to state that from the year 1949-50, the Department has taken up 47 schemes under the Grow-More Food Scheme, which are actually under the Agriculture Department. Out of these 47 schemes, 21 have already been completed and 16 are in progress and 10 will be taken up during the course of the next year. Altogether Sir, a sum of rupees one crore and 20 lakhs will be spent for the implementation of these schemes by way of protection, by reclamation, drainage and supplying of irrigation waters, and the total area of paddy lands that will be brought under cultivation or likely to be benefitted will be about two lakhs and 60 thousand acres when the schemes will be completed. Sir, another scheme was drawn up under Navigation, Embankment and Drainage which will cost one crore of Rupees. There are 54 projects under this Scheme. Of these projects 6 have already been taken up and 27 will be taken up next year and funds have therefore, been provided under this Grant. When these projects will be completed the area benefitted will be about 61 lakhs and 8000 acres.

Sir, out of these schemes 6 schemes have already been implemented under the Grow-More Food Scheme at a cost of about 22.78 lakhs and the total area likely to be benefitted will be about 57,000 acres. Sir, the remaining schemes will cost about 37 lakhs and 47 thousand of rupees and the area likely to be benefitted is about 56 thousand acres of paddy land.

Sir, the entire Grant is for the implementation of these schemes including the establishment charges.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Gogoi do you want to withdraw the Motion?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Sir, after hearing the statement made by the Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

The Cut motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: I put the question.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 97,15,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the head "18-B—and 68-B—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage".

The Motion was carried.

GRANT No. 51

(Loans and Advances, etc.)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,60,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "Loans and Advances, etc".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,60,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "Loans and Advances, etc."

As there is no Cut Motion, I put the question.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,60,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "Loans and Advances, etc."

The Motion was carried.

GRANT No. 4

(9 Stamps)

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to

move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 96,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "9—Stamps".

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 96,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "9—Stamps".

(After a pause)

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 96,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "9—Stamps."

The Motion was carried

GRANT No 12

(28—Jails and Convict Settlements)

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,45,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlement".

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,45,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlement".

(After a pause)

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,45,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "28—Jails and Convict Settlement".

The Motion was carried

GRANT No. 28

(Tools and Plant and Establishment Charges)

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,97,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "Tools and Plant and Establishment Charges".

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,97,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in

the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "Tools and Plant and Establishment Charges".

(After a pause)

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,97,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "28—Tools and Plant and Establishment Charges".

The Motion was carried.

GRANT No. 27

(50—Civil Works)

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,75,03,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the head "50—Civil Works".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,75,03,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "50—Civil Works".

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 3,75,03,000 under Grant No. 27, Major head 50—Civil Works, at page 232 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1 i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 3,75,03,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, whether the State is a Welfare State or a Police State may be illustrated from this particular grant as well; because this grant shows in which direction constructions are taking place. If we give only a cursory view of the items here at page 232 of the Memorandum, only to give a few instances, we will find for Jails and Convict Settlements Rs. 6,92,694; for Police Rs. 11,73,052; for Education Rs. 10,14,514; for Medical Rs. 2,74,220, for Public Health Rs. 1,65,025, for Earthquake Damage Rs. 10,000 and for Agriculture 1 lakh. So Sir, in the matter of construction also. We see that Police has got priority, topping the entire list and I think Jails and Convict Settlements occupy the 4th place and Education the 3rd. Sir, my point is that not only in the recurring expenditure but also in the non-recurring expenditure—in construction matters, we find that priority has always been given to Police.

And we have seen that there are also various illustrations of new schemes in this Memorandum and if we go through the list of these illustrations, specially in the Sixth Schedule areas, we shall see that most of the constructive efforts in the Sixth Schedule areas have been for setting up Police Stations and construction of Jails. So, in our "Welfare State" whether in the general area or in the Sixth Schedule area, particular attention has always been given to build up police structures and Jails and Convict Settlements. In this way Sir, we want to build our Welfare State! And even in the matter of allotment of these things we have very often heard—with apology to our Ministers I must say—that there is not only local patriotism on the part of different Ministers, but there is a tug of war among the Ministers themselves as to who will get priority and where. For example I shall say something about my own birth place—Rangiya. Sir, during the last flood, when the flood caused great damage, people were encouraged to make some self-help efforts to put some embankment on the Borolia river. At first some embankment was put on the eastern direction that is, on the left hand side of the river and not on the right hand side which falls in our mouza and not in the mouza of our Public Works Department Minister. There was a clamour from the people that if there was embankment only on the left side, then during flood the whole water would flow to the right and the entire area would be flooded. Then it was agreed to put an embankment on the other side also. But then, the work has not been proceeding. Only recently I went to that area and I am told that the work has not been proceeding because Finance has vetoed it. The Public Works Department Minister wanted it, but the Finance Minister did not want it with the result that the work is not proceeding. That is what people say, it may be true or it may be not. At any rate, the fact remains that the work is not proceeding. Whether this was because of the tug of war between the Public Works Department Minister and the Finance Minister, I do not know. Let them explain.

Then, with regard to another thing, to the eastern side of the river Nona, there is a Pilot Project at Rangiya. Now, the eastern side of this river falls within the Pilot Project and the western side does not. An embankment on the eastern side as proposed by the Pilot Project will make all the surplus water of the river Nona to flow on the western side, overflowing the mouzas of Purba-Barbhag and Paschim Barigog which of course are not the mouzas of our Public Works Department Minister. There is a clamour from the people that either there should be embankment on both sides or there should be none at all at least let the calamity be equally distributed.

Then there is another instance. It is not in our area, but in Sibsagar. Here, perhaps most hon. Members know how certain things in connection with the cutting of the Dhali Ali came to the notice of the public and there was a lot of commotion even among the Governmental heads. And also another thing about the proposed bund on the Namdang river. It is said that during floods water from the Dikhow river flows into the Namdang river and damages crops in its course. This bund of the Namdang river, it is said, will protect the overflow of water from the Dikhow to enter into the Jerengapathar Reserve. But it is also true that this bund of the Namdang river is going to block the principal stream of Namdang and there would be only two outlets and these two outlets will flow *via* Jhanji to the Brahmaputra and to the Jerengapathar Reserve which is in Kacharijan. At present there are three outlets from the Namdang river—Komoraje, Na-khana and Kacherijan. Even then it is apprehended that water will go up. If the principal one of these three outlets is blocked, what will happen? Even if water from the Dikhow may not go to the Jerengapathar Reserve the Brahmaputra itself when in flood will go up by these two tributaries and as many as seven mouzas will be severely affected. These mouzas are (1) Athkhel, (2) Nazira, (3) Dopdopi, (4) Salaguri, (5) Murabazar, (6) Meteka Bangaon and (7) Jogtali—all these mouzas are likely to be affected by this blocking. As I have said, now there are two outlets left. These two outlets are not deep enough to take the water of the Namdang river in Sibsagar Subdivision. As they are not deep enough and as the soil there is not sandy, but sticky, it will take years in these outlets getting deepened with the result that the water flows down very slowly. When the flood water of the Brahmaputra enters the Jerengapathar Reserve as many as eight Mouzas are likely to be flooded, that is to say, the Mouzas of Athkhel, Nazira, Dopdopi, Salaguri, Murabazar, Meteka-Bangaon Jogtali and Jakaisuk are likely to be affected. Why I am dilating these facts are these: Our Public Works Department depends upon the “expert” advice of those who have very little local knowledge and they do not so much depend upon the local engineers who have gathered experience of local knowledge. When we take up some construction work we should not only take the opinion of our big engineers or engineers imported from America, with the help of the Point 4 Programme, but we should also try to respect the knowledge of the local engineers and people having experience of such work... (Shri Baidyanath Mookerjee: Also advice from Russia.) Yes. Mr. Mookerjee having interest in the Chamber of Commerce may not like to take any advice from Russia, but Mr. Mookerjee alone is not the whole country. My point, Sir, is that in such cases the local experience should always be taken into consideration

If, for protecting some 5,000 bighas of newly opened land our Public Works Department is going to spend a lot of money and by that affect adversely much more land in those 8 Mouzas, then that money will not only be not worth spending but that money will be worse than waste. My suggestion therefore, is that when we make any plan we should take the whole view of the thing. When I take up the work to give a bund on a river I should not only think of my Mouza but I should also think of other Mouzas. We should see whether by raising a bund on the eastern side, the areas on the western side would be flooded or not or whether there should also be a bund on the other side of the river. When it is going to be done I should not only think of my own constituency in which I will seek election after about 3 years, and in which I will have to gather votes, we should also see whether the entire area is flooded or not. When we are going to tackle the problem of Jerengapathar Reserve we should see whether the flood water goes down to the Namdang by as many as 7 tributaries, namely, Bornai, Kaliapani, Deopani, Chapang, Rupjan, Namti and Aila. We are to see whether only two outlets can carry away the water of the Namdang and its tributaries. When the Bramaputra is flooded, the water enters into those 8 Mouzas through this Jerengapathar Reserve and so the bund will be ineffective. Instead of taking such a wide view of things, if we go to make some little silly experiments here and there, that will not only mean wastage of public money, but also additional problems and difficulties. Take this Namdang as an example. In the rainy season, when the water rushes from the hills it rushes through the tributaries running from the hills and in the winter season these tributaries become dry. So, it is only during the rainy season that these tributaries become furious. That point should have been taken into consideration. Whether these two outlets are sufficient to carry away the water in the rainy season ought to have been carefully examined. Otherwise, the money is not utilised, but wasted. I do not want to dilate any more on this point. What I want to stress is that when Government spends money it should be done in accordance with a plan, a plan not with a narrow localistic outlook but with a broad national outlook. In the matter of giving grants we have very many complaints to make about localism, provincialism, etc., that have been prevailing and pervading. This must go. We have a poor State Exchequer. That money should be well spent. National—rather than local outlook should guide us. If some bumper crop comes up, say, in Sibsagar, that will benefit not only the Sibsagar District but benefit the entire State. So, we should see how money can be best utilised, not in a way to serve the purpose for my next election, but to serve the cause of the people of the entire State.

My second point is that the present Government has actually no plan, plan from the point of view of the people, plan that is based on experience of the people, plan which is cherished by the people, plan which depends for its success on the voluntary cooperation of the people. Our plans are imposed plan. We are making our "Community Projects" without looking into the local condition, without caring for the interest of the "community." We are to see for example, how best our people can produce soap. In an "educative" film shown during the opening of the "Pilot Project" at Rangiya, when soap came out on the screen in quick succession people who went there to see the film remarked: "See how big are the American eggs" (*laughter*). They do not know such process, so, they take soaps to be eggs. Therefore it will be worse than waste if exhibitions are arranged which are incomprehensible to our people. Such demonstrations should be given up. Take up those plans which our people can understand, appreciate and take up.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.3,75,03,000 under Grant No.27, Major head "50.—Civil Works", at page 232 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1., i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3,75,03,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, criticised the Government and its policy and inquired whether the State is a Welfare State or Police State. He made reference to certain provisions in the Public Works Department budget in support of his statement. He pointed out that under A(a) page 232 the budget provided Rs.11,73,052 for original building works for Police out of the budget provision of Rs.3,75,03,000. If my Friend look into the budget provision carefully, he will find at pages 232—236 that there are provisions for buildings of other departments, e.g., of Rs.6,92,694 for Jails and Convict Settlements, for Education Rs.10,14,514, for Medical including Medical College Rs.8,24,220 and for Public Health Rs.1,65,025 and for General Administration Rs.10,41,805 out of the budget provision of Rs.80 lakhs, under head A(a) building about 11 lacs have been provided for Police buildings. He did not probably refer to other provisions of the budget beneficial to rural people. He did not refer to the other provision of the budget for nearly Rs.3,75,00,000.

Sir, this provision for Police buildings, actually is for constructions of Police Training School at Dergaon, Border Security Force, Assam Police Battalion, etc. This money was provided in the Police Budget but included in the Public Works Department Budget because these buildings will be constructed by the Public Works Department, Similarly, the money which is provided

under Education is meant for construction of certain buildings for Education Department. The cost of buildings which are necessary for different Departments are included in the Public Works Department Budget as the construction will be taken up by the Public Works Department. If my friend refers to page 234 of the Budget, he will find that there is provision for communications as follows: for General and Sixth Schedule areas respectively (a) ordinary roads—Rs.32,68,768 and Rs.4,11,684, (b) Development Schemes Rs.17,79,000 and Rs.3,88,000, and for Petrol tax Projects—Rs.29,31,000 and Rs.7,55,000. Altogether there is provision for Rs. 1, 6,10,768 and Rs.65,21,248 for the General and sixth scheduled areas under head A (b) for communications which are mainly for construction of roads in rural areas. It seems, he purposely omitted to mention about these provisions. He simply pointed out the Budget provision of Rs.11,00,000 for construction of the buildings under head "Police" out of the budget for Rs 3,75,03,000 and wants to establish that this is a Police Budget and the State is a Police State.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYA: I was simply comparing the amount allotted to Police buildings and Educational buildings.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): In the last Budget Session, Sir, the House elected a Board, known as the Assam Road Communication Board. After the last Session of the Assembly, a meeting of the said Road Communication Board was held in June 1952 and the Board recommended 42 road projects for rural areas costing Rs.50 lacs from Petrol Tax ordinary fund and another 24 road projects were selected under Motor Vehicles Tax which will cost about Rs.26 lacs. Petrol Tax programme will result in the improvement of about 211 miles of roads in non-scheduled districts and all these roads are in rural areas. Besides, Aijal-Lungleh Road in Lushai Hills which will be about 130 miles in length and Mahangdijua-Parakhowa Road in the Mikir Hills will be taken under the Petrol Tax Project. If the hon. Member cares to look into the budget provision of the Public Works Department—detailed estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1953-54, he will see names of the roads there. These roads have been taken up not for election propaganda, but for the development of communication in rural areas. The roads are selected by the Assam Road Communication Board on district-wise basis. All of these roads are in rural areas. This Petrol Tax programme will result in improvement of 130 miles of roads in non-scheduled areas. Besides one road is selected in the Garo Hills and another in Khasi and Jaintia Hills. A programme for construction of roads in the Autonomous Districts of Assam under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution which was originally made out will roughly cost Rs.1,46,00,000,

This has recently been re-examined by the experts of both of Assam and the Government of India in August 1952, who made on the spot studies and took into consideration bad communication of the Autonomous Districts and revised the road programme which will include 12 road Projects costing about Rs.2,56,00,000 in the first phase of the work. In the second phase it is tentatively proposed, schemes when completed would cost about 86 lakhs. Sir, all Projects in non-scheduled Districts were selected in a meeting of the Assam Road Communication Boards are examined by our Department, and subsequently they are being approved by the Government of India. So the accusation of my friend that Government is proceeding arbitrarily without any plan and programme is without any foundation. Sir, the House has elected the Committee. The Committee selected the projects which were examined by experts of the Department both of Assam and Government of India. These estimates, plans, etc., were prepared by our Department and sent to the Government of India for examination and approval. The technical experts of the Government of India examined them and gave their approval. My friend may be highly educated qualified man in other aspects, he may be an expert in Law but I do not think he is in a position to criticise any scheme which requires technical knowledge in Engineering. I cannot accept his advice in this matter because it entirely depends on technical advice of the experts. The schemes relating to Embankment and Drainage are not only prepared by our Department but they are also examined by the experts of the Government of India and approved by them. Sir, this Government will have to follow the advice of the experts specially the experts of the Government of India.

Sir, although my friend Mr. Gogoi criticised the Government for one point alone which is not relevant to the grant, yet I like to give to the House all necessary information because these facts might not be known to them. Since 1949-50, under Grow-More-Food schemes the Public Works Department has undertaken as many as 47 schemes estimated cost of which is nearly rupees 120 lakhs. Subsequent to these schemes another programme for 54 projects were selected which will cost about 1 crore of rupees. The Embankment and Drainage Advisory Committee constituted by the House in the last Budget Session approved the selection of the 24 schemes and selected 30 new schemes. These projects are also not only examined by our Embankment and Drainage Department but also examined by the experts of the Central Government. The schemes which are considered to be productive are being taken up and will be taken up under a new Grow-More-Food Programme.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: On a point of information, Sir, did these experts consult the local people?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): These schemes are selected by their representatives and taken up generally on the representation of people of the localities. If there is any dispute and doubt about their utility the experts inspect the projects and give hearing to objections and after due consideration give necessary advice to the Government. Sir, recently some experts of the Central Water and Power Commission of the Central Government visited Assam and inspected certain important schemes. So, Sir, the allegation that the Government have been proceeding without any plan and programme and whimsically is baseless.

So, Sir, this Government is not proceeding without any plan or programme. My friend Mr. Bhattacharyya who referred to a local project to protect the paddy fields from spills of the Baralia by constructing an Embankment along the Baralia river—stated that funds have not been provided and the works are delayed due to rivalries among the Ministers. He may say anything and everything that comes to his mouth or from imagination, but I am not aware of any rivalry among the Ministers for which schemes are delayed. The scheme was selected by the Embankment and Drainage Committee in its last meeting held in June. The Department made a survey and submitted the plan and estimates. Necessary funds in this connection have been provided in the Budget by the Government. The project could not be taken up this year earlier due to some delay in survey and preparation of the plan and estimates and the work will be taken up as early as possible.

Sir, if he cares to look at page 8, Public Works Department Detailed Budget he will find that funds have been provided for the scheme referred above and so the scheme will be taken up next year. After the selection of the present scheme by the Embankment and Drainage Committee, the villagers on the other bank also requested for an embankment on the other side fearing that their hearth and home would be flooded. The matter, Sir, is under consideration of the Government.

My friend made reference to the Lona project. This project is not under the Embankment and Drainage Department. This scheme as far as I know has been taken under the Small Irrigation Scheme, which is under the Agricultural Department.

My friend also tries to make out a case that Government are not providing funds for Scheduled Districts Sir, it is not true also.

As regards Autonomus Districts, 12 projects have been taken up which will cost nearly Rs.2,56,00,000 I have already been taken up it. So it will be seen that more funds are provided referred to Districts during the first phase of the Five Year Plan, than for non-scheduled areas. In the next phase, the proposals tentatively made will cost about 83 lakhs for scheduled areas.

Mr. SPEAKER : I think, there is only one point more.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Yes, Sir, that is about Namdang.

My friend also criticises the cutting of Dhai Ali. I should like to point out that the Panidihiing bund costs nearly six or seven lacs of rupees for its construction last year. The bund was constructed with a view to protect the paddy fields of about 6 or 7 mauzas. This bund joins the Dhai Ali at one end. The bund would have been washed away if the Dhai Ali was not cut in order to allow the excess water to flow through these cuts. The Chief Engineer himself inspected it and advised to cut Dhai Ali with a view to protect the newly constructed bund and to save the paddy fields of six or seven mauzas. As a result of these cuts in the Dhai Ali, there had been some damages of standing crops. But if those were not made at that time, the whole bund would have been washed away by the flood and the entire paddy fields of these six or seven mauzas would have been washed away. So, Sir, these cuts were made for the interest of greater public good,

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : On a point of information Sir, what are those 6 or 7 mauzas? The Minister has not mentioned the names.

Shri SIDDHI NATH SARMA (Minister) : Sir, I shall be able to give the names of mauzas.

The names of the mauzas are Panidihiing, Nitaipukhuri, Thawra, Betbari, Kuarpur and Sibsagar Town *i. e.* Metaka Bargaon.

Sir, now I want to say a word about the Namdang Bund and I found by the construction of the Namdang bund, about 5,000 bighas of land can be reclaimed in Jerengapathar and matter referred to by my friend will also be further examined by the expert of the Department.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : But a certain number of mouzas in that sub-division would be flooded away on account of the diversion of the river mouth. What are the names of those mauzas so affected by the bund?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : No Sir, the bund has been constructed with a view to protect them and not to flood them. The question will be further examined.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, one point is not clear. I want clarification of the point about the location of the Embankment.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, embankment was put up in a suitable locality selected by expert. The Public Works Department cannot build embankments and roads in the air.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya is charging you that you are actuated by local patriotism.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): This charge is also baseless and without foundation. I have already stated that the roads taken up have been selected by the Assam Road Communication Board and Embankment and Drainage Schemes were also selected by the Embankment and Drainage Advisory Council. Both the Boards and the Advisory Council were constituted by the House in last March. I refer him, Sir, to the proceedings of the meetings of the Embankment and Drainage Advisory Council and the Assam Road Communication Board held on the 11th and 13th June 1952 respectively. At page 4 of the proceedings of the meeting of the Assam Road Communication Board it reads "The Chairman then said that the mileage of roads calculated under the Grid and Star Formula shows which areas are backward in respect of road communication. The Board may therefore accept either of the two formula or otherwise may take the average of both the formulæ which will give each district the following amount out of Rs.60 lakhs.

Rs.40 lakhs from Petrol Tax Fund and Rs.20 lakhs from the Motor Vehicles Tax proceeds" from non-Scheduled Districts.

Sir, my friend may not know the Grid and Star Formula. For his information, and of the House, I like to mention that this Grid and Star Formula was arrived at and adopted in a meeting of all the Chief Engineers of India after taking into consideration, population, area of cultivable lands and many other factors. Sir, this Formula takes into consideration also backwardness of a district or place. The money available was distributed according to the formula adopted by the Road Board and also on the basis of the recommendations of the Assam Road Communication Board on this basis funds were allotted on district as follows :—

1. Cachar	...	...	...	8.6
2. Goalpara	...	...	...	9.9
3. Kamrup	...	...	...	11.0
4. Darrang	...	...	...	6.9
5. Nowgong	...	...	...	6.3
6. Sibsagar	...	...	...	8.0
7. Lakhimpur	...	...	...	9.3

The Assam Road Communication Board, Sir, have taken all factors into consideration including the backwardness of the localities

in the matter of selection of roads and allotment of funds. Therefore his charges are entirely baseless and imaginary. Sir, the allegations of my friend are from his own imagination. Sir, I do not like to use strong and harsh words because that is not in my blood. I want to speak what I know to be true. If my friend will look in to the roads taken up in our Subdivisions he will find that all the roads when constructed will serve tribal and backward areas of the Subdivision. Similarly Embankment and Drainage Schemes were also selected by the Embankment and Drainage Advisory Council in a meeting held on 11th June 1952. I hope I have met all the points raised by him. No further reply is necessary.

Mr. SPEAKER. Mr. Bhattacharyya do you want to put your motion?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA. I better withdraw.

The Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER. I put the question.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.3,75,03,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1954, for the administration of the head "50.—Civil Works".

The Motion was carried.

GRANT No. 19,

(40.—Agriculture)

Shri MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister): Mr Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.58, 57, 400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "40.—Agriculture".

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.58,57,400 under Grant No.19, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 134 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.58,57,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, I was under the impression that we would get half an hour to discuss this item, but as it appears, we shall get less time; so I shall try to be very brief and shall touch only certain very important points.

Sir, when we talk of agriculture, we are to consider certain factors. The first factor is the man behind the plough. The second

factor is land, and the third factor is other accessories—the animals and implements. Of course there are some other items also, but these are the most important. Now, if we take the human side first, we know that our State as our Chief Minister said the other day is predominantly an agricultural State and our population is predominantly dependent on agriculture. Therefore, the solution of the problems of our State depends primarily on the solution of our agrarian problem.

Now, the main question, *i.e.*, the first and the foremost demand of our agriculturists is “land”. Here, there is a controversy as to whether there is any arable surplus land in our State, and if there be any, to what extent? There has been no one opinion between the experts of the Central Government and the experts of the Provincial Government in this regard. I was no doubt not present in this House as I had not taken the oath then, but I read in the papers the other day that one member from this side referred to a report from some experts of the Government of India.

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) : On a point of information Sir, the question of land settlement does not come within the purview of the Agricultural Department.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : It does Sir, because, as I said, when we talk of agriculture, three important factors come in, those are —man, land, and animals and equipments. When I come to the different items I shall show the connection so that the thing can be easily understandable. So I am touching at the most important point from the very outset.

Now, whether that Central Government report is correct or the report from the Expert Committee of the Central Government is correct or whether the Desai Report is correct, that is not the main point. The point is that with our naked eyes we see that there is land in the country which is cultivable and which has not been cultivated and there are also lands which can be reclaimed. I do not know whether our Ministers care to know anything about that forbidden land to them—the Soviet Union. But if they care to know all about that part of the world, they will know that millions of acres of new lands have been made arable. Those places which were once deserts have now been reclaimed and made arable. So also our swamps and our otherwise unfit land can be reclaimed and made arable. If we are really anxious to improve our agriculturists we should give primary emphasis not so much on direction, not so much on superintendence and not so much on the so-called “development schemes” with particular courtesy to the Point Four Programme, we should give primary emphasis on the agriculturists by providing them with lands. That is the first and foremost necessity. If there be an army of landless people

in our country, we shall see many problems cropping up and we shall see a huge quantity of our man power, a potentially productive power, being wasted. But Sir, whenever we on this side of the House raise a question about land being given to the landless instead of spending money on mere fantastic schemes, and in top heavy administration, superintendence, etc., we are accused of being propagandists or agitators. It is said that we want some cheap popularity and therefore we say there is land when there is no land. If the hon. Members of this August House care to go with an open mind and with open eyes, they will see that there are lakhs and lakhs of acres of land lying fallow in our country which can be brought under the plough.

(At this stage the Speaker vacated the Chair and Shri Maham Singh, Chairman occupied it).

Mr. CHAIRMAN (Shri MAHAM SINGH): But that is outside the point, Mr. Bhattacharyya. You are speaking about settlement of land which is not at all the subject matter of this Motion.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : But Sir, I am criticising the expenditure under direction, superintendence and so on of these Development Schemes and I am giving alternative suggestions that instead of wasting money on these items by reducing this amount of Rs.1,94,450 we could divert a portion of this amount in reclaiming lands for the landless people and instead of uselessly arguing that there are only 18 lakhs bighas of cultivable waste land or things of that sort, we ought to have given whatever land is available to those agriculturists who have got no land. Not only that, the refugees also have got no land, and those who have come from outside have got no land. Unless and until we provide land to the peasants, our agrarian problem cannot be solved by simply wasting money in direction, superintendence, and so on. So Sir, the crux of the problem is "land for the peasants" and there should be no two opinions on that point. Only to-day our Chief Minister said that some of us are exciting people to make illegal entries in the reserves and so on. There is no necessity to excite, when there is hunger, people go there to occupy arable waste-lands facing all odds because as a Sanskrit Sloka says—

“কুধাতুবানাং ন ভয়ং ন লজ্জা।”

When there is hunger they do not fear. Hunger is the exciting factor, not the member of this House! (*A voice—You take advantage of the hunger*). No, we do not, but the Government do not realise the urge of hunger of the people, they laugh at the hunger of the people and they float in luxury while the governed are groaning under hunger. Such a Government has no right to exist. If the Government does not either solve the problem of hunger of the people or vacate, the hunger will

eat them up. Government should know this (*A Voice*—Is it a threat?) Is it easy to laugh to-day, but tomorrow may be a day of weeping and mourning (*A Voice*—You wish that). No, we wish that that day may not come. We wish that instead of making some of our brothers weep, things may be done peacefully. The point is, Sir, our country men are suffering, they are groaning under the pangs of hunger. This is not a thing to be laughed at. It is not that there are outsiders who are exciting the people. The people have got as much right as any one of us to live and when there is land available, why should this be denied to them? Give land to the people and utilise our man-power for more production,—production of more food for our country. Sir, I find that a big amount of money has been allotted for Grow-More-Food Schemes like Ahu Paddy Seed Multiplication Scheme, Intensive Cultivation Scheme and many other schemes. You deny land to the peasants and you want to grow more food! You may grow more food in your drawing room tumblers by putting some mud and water there. But that will be only for the decoration of your drawing rooms. That will not solve the food problem of the country. Give land to the peasant and give him the necessary implements so that he can cultivate the land. Only then more food will be grown. Otherwise only by distributing some placards or pasting some festoons on the street of Shillong and Gauhati nothing will be achieved. The money that is now spent for grow-more-food propaganda mostly in towns is a simple waste. So, instead of wasting this huge amount of money on the long list of schemes enumerated at page 135 of the Budget, instead of bluffing our own conscience that we are doing something and also perhaps bluffing the Central Government with misleading facts and figures that we are doing our best in such and such way so that in case of failure we may say 'what can be done, God is unkind towards us'; instead of saying these things, let us really do something. Our people go to the reserves when they do not get land and then they are evicted though after two or three years the reserves are thrown open in most cases. What is the necessity of harassing them in this way? Why not throw open the reserves which are not necessary? Why not give them land at the outset. Then sometimes when you give them land you do not see that they actually get possession of it. I know of an instance, Sir. In the Tinkunia reserve near the Panikhaiti Railway station about 126 flood-eroded families of Gauhati Circle were given 800 bighas of land two years ago. Simply an order to that effect was passed, but no Government officer even visited the locality to see whether they had been settled there. Sir, the position is this: there were already some Nepali and tribal people there and regular conflicts are going on with them for the last

two years. These people have not yet been given any patta, not even annual patta; only 'tauzi bahir' revenue is collected from them. Then, Sir, this Tinkunia reserve is a low-lying area only fit for cultivation. Houses cannot be built there. Near about this reserve, there is a grant fit for building houses, but that has been given to a so-called non-existing cotton mill. The result is that those people can remain there only in winter and have to go away during the rainy season. So, my point is that even when land is given, proper care is not taken to see that the land can be utilised by the people to whom it is given. Moreover, Sir, we have seen that in the North Lakhimpur area, Majuli area and in many other places, many people who were affected by floods and earthquakes have not been given land as yet. Those who took shelter in reserves have been evicted. So, my point is that instead of wasting money in doing grow-more-food propaganda, instead of bluffing the Central Government and bluffing our own conscience, we should be honest. Honesty is the first thing required. If you mean to say that we have land but we want to keep it as our Zamindari for our descendants, say it frankly. But I say with all seriousness that there is sufficient land in this State to provide a good number of people. You should give that land to the people so that they can cultivate, live and help others to live.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.58,57,400 under Grant No.19, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 134 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.58,57,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the interest of Grow-More-Food Campaign in our State I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to see that in the matter of land settlement, Government follows a consistent policy. He should also see that once an order is passed in the matter of land settlement this is not cancelled or changed without sufficient reason. To illustrate this I want to bring before the House a case of land settlement in the district of Sibsagar (Golaghat subdivision). About 1950, some landless people of Garigaon and Bongaon of Khumtai mauza of Golaghat were given settlement of a plot of land in Mariacholla grant of Badlipar Tea Company (*A voice*—This is irrelevant, Sir).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: How does this come in?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: It comes under cultivation. Now, these people cultivated the land and produced paddy and sugarcane worth about Rs.40,000. Then, after the great earthquake, some Miri people came and encroached upon that plot of land. The indigenous Tribal Assamese people who were given

settlement at Golaghat they approached the Subdivisional Officer and Sub-Deputy Collector and Deputy Commissioner.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : This discussion comes under Revenue and not under this head.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI : In a way it comes under Revenue, but in the interest of growing more food there must be a plan to grow more food. Sir, in making a discrimination in this matter of settlement of land between one class of people and another class of people the provision in Article 15 of the Constitution has not been followed. I have just cited the instance to draw the attention not only of our Minister of Agriculture but also of the Minister for Revenue, who is unfortunately absent at this moment.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion of my Friend.

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the beginning I thought that some helpful suggestions regarding improvement of our agriculture and agriculturists would be forthcoming from my friend, the Mover of the Cut Motion. But in that respect, Sir, I have been very much disappointed. He began with 'man behind the plough' and ended with 'improved implements', in his speech. In the course of his whole debate he did not mention anything about these two things. He only mentioned about the land settlement policy of the Government. Sir, it has become a fashion with many of our friends of this House to bring the question of land settlement policy in season and out of season. During the time of the debate on the Governor's address and during the time of the general discussion of the budget and also during the time when the Revenue Demand came before this House for discussion this subject was discussed threadbare. To speak the truth, land settlement has no bearing whatsoever with this Agricultural Demand and therefore, Sir, much of what has been said by the Mover of the Cut Motion is out of place and irrelevant. But one very pertinent question he has raised is as to what this Government has done or proposed to do for reclaiming uncultivable waste lands and to make them cultivable. This question comes under this Demand. Sir, my friend very well knows that this Government is giving the highest priority to the Grow-More-Food Campaign. He is accusing us that we are bluffing our conscience as if conscience is only the monopoly of his. My friend should take from me that we, who belong to this part of the House never bluff our conscience. We are very sincere and honest towards the improvement of the lot of the agriculturists—the men behind the plough of our State. My friend Mr. Bhattacharyya does not see the wood for the tree. He always see things from a different angle and so, Sir, it is very difficult to deal with him. When we go to say that we are

reclaiming waste lands immediately he will say that it is only a bluff. When we say that in order to develop certain areas we are implementing certain schemes of embankment and drainage so that the food problem of the country can be solved or the problem of the landless can be solved, he accuses us that we are giving bluff. Then how shall we deal with such a gentleman successfully.

In regard to the land reclamation scheme that has been undertaken by the Government at Kaki I want to say that about 40 thousand bighas of land have been opened and after reclamation, will be settled with the men behind the plough. At Sonajuli-Kalikhola in the Mangaldai Subdivision about 20 thousand bighas of land have been reclaimed through the efforts of the Department and they are going to be settled with the men behind the plough. Sir, there are some low lying areas in our country and we are trying to bring these low lying areas under the plough and for that purpose we are taking many projects, major and minor under the Grow-More-Food Campaign. We have started a power-pump section so that we can introduce Boro cultivation in an extensive scale and also to make people less dependent on nature. This year we have been able to extend Boro cultivation to about 12 thousand acres of land and this Boro paddy has been grown by the people—by the men behind the plough, frequently being victimised by flood. Therefore, Sir, the accusation that this Government is not doing anything to bring under the plough the uncultivable land and the low lying areas is not correct. While giving a list of fantastic schemes my friend made mention only of seed distribution farms. A person who speaks about the improvement of the lot of the cultivators the men behind the plough should have known that without good seeds no cultivator can expect to have a good crop. Therefore, for propagation of good crop such a scheme is essential and almost unavoidable. This scheme has been carried out only to give improved variety of seeds to the man behind the plough.

Then he made a sweeping remark that the administration is top heavy. He nowhere could cite an instance where the top heaviness lies. The heaviness is in his mind—might be in heart or might be in his head.

I hope my friend will please see his way to withdraw the Cut Motion.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: The reply given is most unconvincing. So, Sir, I cannot withdraw my Motion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that the total provision of Rs.58,57,400 under Grant No.19, Major head—40.—Agriculture, at page 134 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1., i.e., the

amount of the whole grant of Rs.58,57,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The Motion was lost.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.58,57,400 (Rupees fifty-eight lakhs, fifty-seven thousand and four hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the head "40—Agriculture".

The Motion was adopted.

GRANT No.19A.

(40—Agriculture—II—Fisheries)

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) :

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.92,800 (Rupees ninety-two thousand and eight hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the Head "40—Agriculture—II—Fisheries."

Mr. CHAIRMAN : The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.92,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the Head "40—Agriculture—II—Fisheries."

(After a pause)

I now put the question.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.92,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1954, for the administration of the Head "40—Agriculture.—II—Fisheries."

The Motion was adopted.

GRANT No.45.

(XLVI—A—Road Transport Schemes Working Expenses)

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.57,34,200 (Rupees fifty-seven lakhs, thirty-four thousand and two hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "XLVI—A.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses".

Mr. CHAIRMAN : The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.57,34,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the head "XLVI—A.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses."

(After a pause)

I now put the question.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.57,34,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the head "XLVI-A.--Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses".

The Motion was adopted.

GRANT No.46.

(71—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research)

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister):

Mr. Chairman, Sir on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.5,21,700 (Rupees five lakhs, twenty-one thousand and seven hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1954, for the administration of the head "71—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research".

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.5,21,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "71—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research."

(After a pause)

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.5,21,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the head "71—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research".

The Motion was adopted.

GRANT No.48.

(82—Capital Account of other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account)

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,51,600 (Rupees ten lakhs, fifty-one thousand and six hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "82—Capital Account of Other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account".

Mr CHAIRMAN : The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,51,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the head "82—Capital Account of other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account."

(After a pause)

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,51,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1954, for the administration of the head "82—Capital Account of other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account".

The Motion was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 1-30 P. M. on Friday the 27th March, 1953.

SHILLONG :

The 8th August, 1950. } **R. N. BARUA,**
Secretary, Legislative Asssembly, Assam.